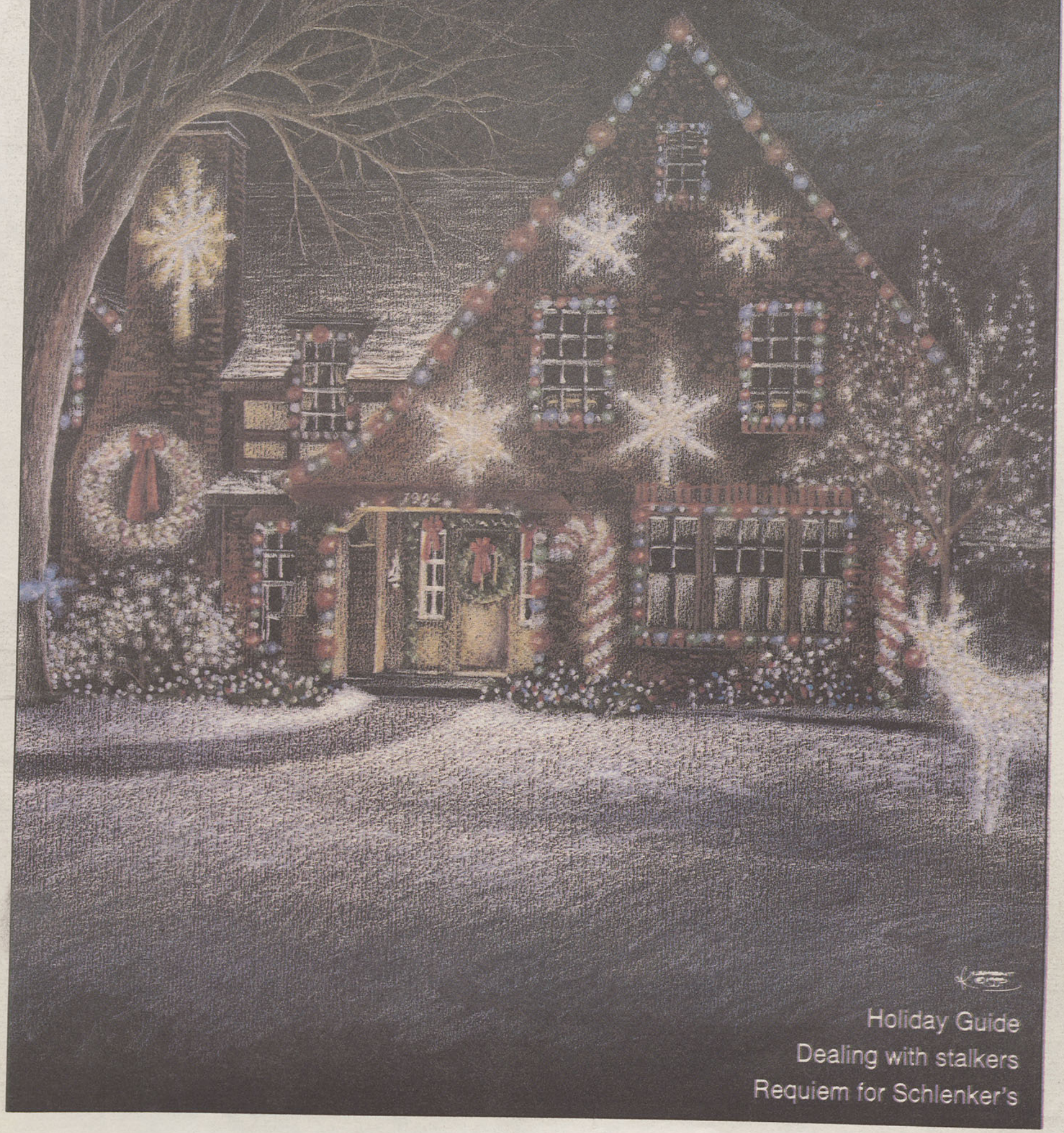
Ann Arbor Observer

December 1995

$1.50



Holiday Guide

Dealing with stalkers

Requiem for Schlenker's

As I See It #21 in a series
Nick Vedros
"Home Sweet Home"
4-Color Photography

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Peace at last! Thanks to our incredible Peacekeeper™ Seat-Actuated Flush (available on Koher Lite™ and Water-Guard toilets), there'll be no more squabbles over seat up vs. seat down. The only way to flush this little genius is by closing the lid.
Utility patent applied for. ©1993 by Kohler Co.

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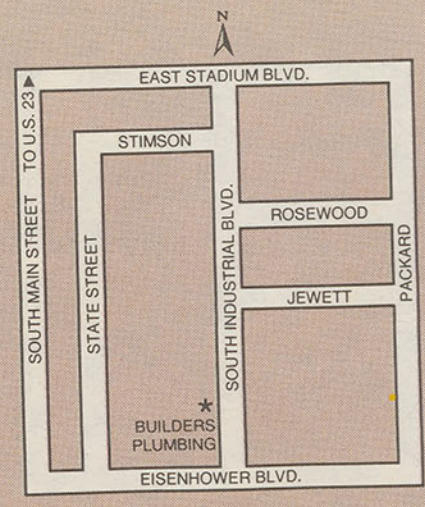

45283 GRAND RIVER
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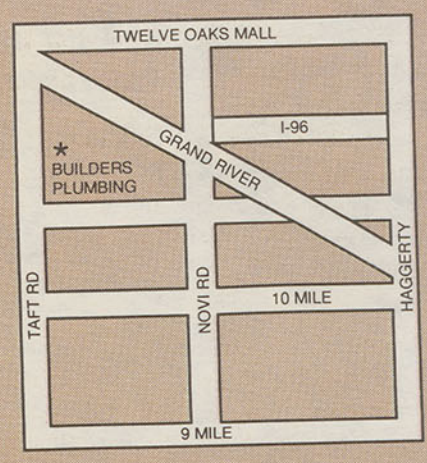
(810) 347–1600



Showroom hours, both locations:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Now open Saturday
9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Closed Sunday & Monday

The Best Holiday Gift

Give Her A Day At The Spa

THIS HOLIDAY HAVE HER ESCAPE to a stress-free environment and emerge feeling totally rejuvenated.

Her day begins with a private Finnish steam sauna, shower, and morning refreshments. This is followed by a rejuvenating Relaxology massage.

Next, she will soak in our 78 jet hydrotherapy tub and her cares will float away...she will receive a Spa facial, eyebrow arch, and Hawaiian manicure and pedicure. And, of course, she will enjoy an elegantly served luncheon.

To complete her ***One Perfect Day***, a revitalizing hair treatment, haircut, styling and make up application will be created especially for her. The gift certificate for this ***One Perfect Day*** is $275.

You can also answer her rejuvenating needs with one of our other packages:

- ***Afternoon Escape***
- ***Morning Delight***
- ***Spa Sampler***
- ***The Perk***

Afternoon Escape

Begin with a private Finnish steam sauna, shower, and refreshments. Follow with the healing experience of a Relaxology massage. Next, she will receive a Spa facial. From there, she will be treated to a Hawaiian manicure and pedicure. She will also be served an elegant luncheon.

To complete her ***Afternoon Escape***, she will experience a revitalizing hair and scalp treatment, haircut and styling just for her. A gift certificate for this ***Afternoon Escape*** is $200.

Morning Delight

Start her morning with a private Finnish steam sauna, shower and morning refreshments. Follow with the healing experience of Relaxology massage. Next, she will receive a rejuvenating Spa facial. To complete her morning, she will be treated to a Spa pedicure and manicure. A gift certificate for this ***Morning Delight*** is $150.

Spa Sampler

Start her experience with her choice of a Spa facial or a rejuvenating Relaxology massage. Next, treat her to her choice of a Spa manicure and pedicure or a super aromatic hair and scalp treatment with expert haircut and styling. A gift certificate for this ***Spa Sampler*** is $100.

The Perk

Experience the benefits of deep relaxation and discover our successful therapy in stress management through our unique hydrotherapy session featuring 78 jets, followed by a one hour Relaxology massage. A gift certificate for ***The Perk*** is $95

An elegant certificate will be sent with your personal message of love and caring. Call me at 313–996–5585 and I will be pleased to arrange your holiday gift.

If purchasing a gift certificate over the phone, delivery is available within 24 hours to most areas. Ask for a free brochure listing all of our features.

"Feel the benefits of taking time out to renew your body, mind, and spirit. To arrange her day at the spa or for a free brochure listing all of our features, please call me at 313–996–5585"

Please complete this form and fax or send to:

JEFFREY MICHAEL POWERS
BEAUTY SPA

206 South Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone 313–996–5585 Fax 313–996–1511

❑ ***Morning Delight*** $150 ❑ ***Perfect Day*** $275 ❑ ***Afternoon Escape*** $200

❑ ***Spa Sampler*** $100 ❑ ***The Perk*** $95

Please send my elegant certificate announcing my gift

❑ to gift recipient ❑ to me, I will handle delivery

To:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

From:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Enclosed is my check for $ _____ or Mastercard ❑ Visa ❑

Card#: _____ Expires: _____

Signature: _____

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Menu of Holiday Baskets

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Michigan Sampler Basket
Mackinaw Fudge, Butter Pretzels, Kellogg's Cereal, Michigan Dried Cherries, Jiffy Muffin Mix, Michigan Maple Syrup, Michigan Honey, Michaelene's Granola, Vernor's Ginger Ale.

$29.99

Taste of Michigan
Michigan Dried Cherries, Mackinaw Fudge, Butter Pretzels, Michigan Maple Syrup, Carp River Preserves, and Michigan Honey in a baguette-shaped bread basket.

$34.99

Michigan Breakfast Basket
Frankenmuth Pancake Mix, Brownwood Cherry Butter, Michigan Muesli, Michigan Maple Syrup, Carp River Preserves, and Mountain Country Coffee.

$39.99

Michigan Gourmet Basket
Pastabilities Pasta, Butter Pretzels, Pizzelle Cookies, Michigan Dried Cherries, Carp River Preserves, Clancy's Fancy Hot Sauce, and Mucky Duck Mustard.

$39.99

Carp River Gift Boxes
Trio: $22.50 Sextet: $42.50

American Spoon Gift Boxes
Duet: $16.75 Trio: $25.99 Quartet: $34.50

From Across Michigan
Pastabilities Pasta, Carp River Preserves, Mucky Duck Mustard, Michigan Honey, Michigan Dried Cherries, Michigan Maple Syrup, Pizzelle Cookies, Michigan Mints, St. Julian Sparkling Juice, Kellogg's Cereal, Jiffy Muffin Mix, in a handled willow basket.

$69.99

The Best of Ann Arbor
Pastabilities Pasta, Mountain Country Coffee, MacKinlay Tea, Minerva Street Chocolates, Clancy's Fancy Hot Sauce, Parthenon Greek Salad Dressing, a custom made "City of Trees" Mug, and notecards by local artist Michael Klement featuring city landmarks, in a handled willow basket. Maize and blue decoration advised.

$79.99

A Taste of Ann Arbor
Minerva Street Chocolates, Clancy's Fancy Hot Sauce, Pastabilities Pasta, Mountain Country Coffee, and an "I Love Ann Arbor Mug . . . all in a tasteful basket. Maize and blue decoration advised.

$39.99

The Snack Basket
Caramel Corn, Butter Pretzels, Mackinaw Fudge, Michigan Mints, Walker's Shortbread, Mackinaw Taffy, Sausage, Cheese and Crackers in a festive basket.

$49.99

Best of Michigan
Mackinaw Fudge, Mackinaw Taffy, Michigan Mints, Mucky Duck Mustard, American Spoon Preserves, Butter Pretzels, St. Julian Sparkling Fruit Juice, Michigan Dried Cherries, Pizzelle Cookies, Sanders Fudge Sauce, and an engraved mug showing both peninsulas in a lovely handled willow basket.

$89.99

Mitt Full of Michigan
Michigan Oven Mitt (in shape of a hand with the Lower Peninsula on one side and the Upper Peninsula on the other side), 1996 Michigan Calendar, Two Scented Tapered Candles, a Handmade Scented Bar of Superior Soap, Gwen Frostic Prints, and a Michigan Cookie Cutter tastefully bound together with a bow.

$39.99

The Party Basket
St. Julian Sparkling Fruit Juice, Butter Pretzels, Mixed Nuts, Tub of Carmel Corn, Sander's Chocolates, Walker's Shortbread, Mountain Country Coffee, Sausage, Cheese, Crackers, Crispy Joys, and Jelly Belly Jelly Beans in a festive basket.

$74.99

The Wicker Basket
A wicker basket in the shape of the Lower Peninsula filled with Michigan Dried Cherries, Sander's Fudge Sauce, Michaelene's Granola, Country Home Creations Dip Mix, and a cookie cutter in the shape of the Lower or Upper Peninsula (your choice) filled with a chocolate/cherry confection.

$34.99

The Big Snack Basket
A Tub of Caramel Corn, Butter Pretzels, Walker's Shortbread, Sausage, Cheese, Crackers, Mixed Nuts, Crispy Joys, Jelly Belly Jelly Beans, and Mocha Melts in a festive basket.

$59.99

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$25–$99

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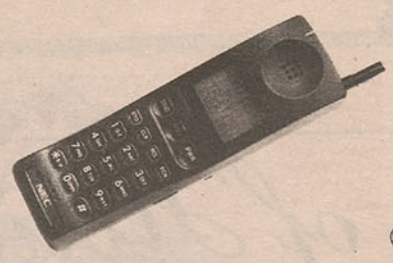
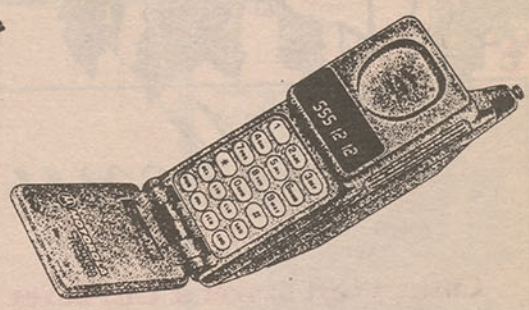


NEC 701 FREE



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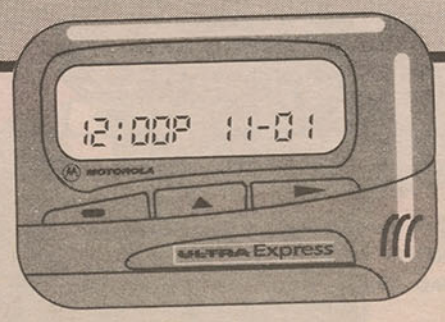
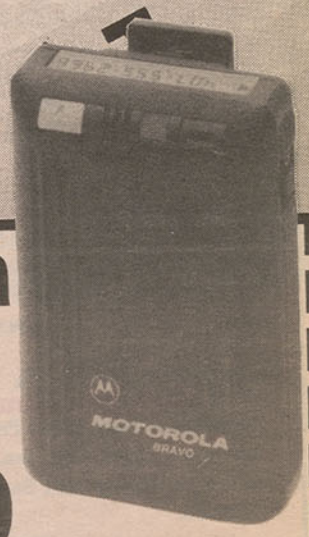
- **FREE** Activation
- One **FREE** Calling Feature
- First Three Months Double Your Airtime **FREE**



Motorola Ultra Express

$79.00

- FREE Activation, First Month Service FREE, FREE lifetime warranty, (16 numbers, memory, beeps, vibs, time readout, alarm and 5 ring tones)



Motorola Bravo Plus

$69.00

with FREE activation. First month of service free and free lifetime warranty. (16 numbers, memory, beeps, vibs and time readout.)

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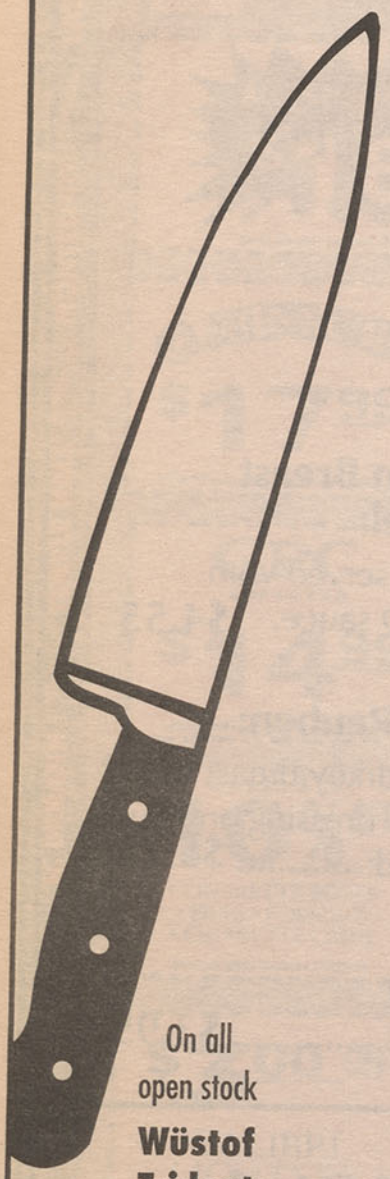

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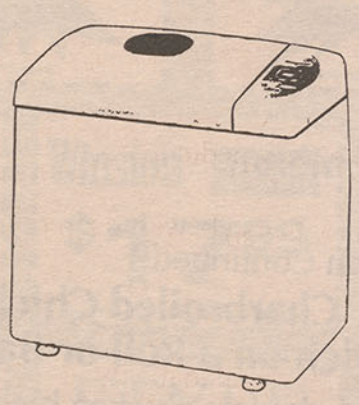

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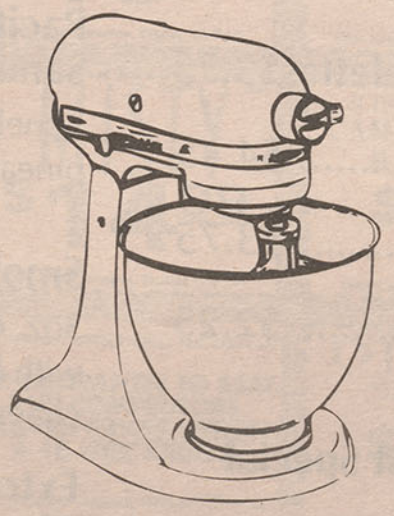

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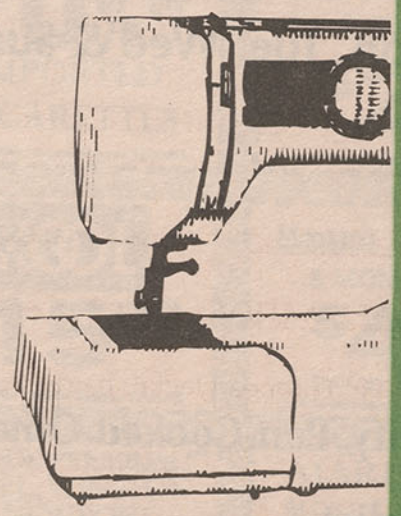

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Belgium Waffles..... $3.75

2 Eggs with Toast or Bagel..... $2.25

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Two farm fresh eggs cooked any style served with Idaho russet hash browns covered with sauteed tomatoes, onions, green peppers, broccoli & mushrooms topped with feta cheese. Comes with toast or a bagel all for only..... $4.75

Lunch (Charbroiled Burgers • Deli and Vegetarian Sandwiches • Salads)

The Marinated Chicken Breast Delight:

A boneless, skinless lowfat chicken breast marinated in olive oil, fresh garlic, fresh lemon juice and onions. Charbroiled to perfection and served on a bed of lettuce, diced tomatoes and sliced onions and served with lowfat garlic yogurt sauce. $4.25

.....(Lunch Continued)

Pacific Charbroiled Chicken Breast Sandwich on a Roll or Bagel:

Boneless, skinless chicken breast served with pineapple tops smothered in BBQ sauce. $4.55

Smoked Salmon or Turkey Reuben:

3oz. of fresh smoked salmon or turkey breast sliced with layers of sauerkraut, Russian dressing and Swiss cheese on hearty grilled rye bread:..... $5.25

Extra Lean 1/3 lb. Charbroiled Cheese Burger

with lettuce, tomato and pickle.....$3.95

Dinner: Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Dinner specials start at $6.50 and include: BBQ Ribs, BBQ Chicken, Charbroiled Chicken Kabobs, and much more! Carry-out available.

At the Kerrytown Grille our goal is to serve the highest quality food at the lowest prices with great service. Come in and give us a try, you'll be glad you did.

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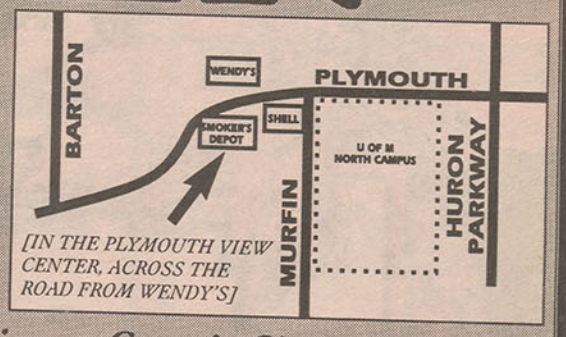

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Ann Arbor Observer

DECEMBER 1995 Vol. 20, No. 4

Cover: The Gingerbread House on Austin Avenue. Pastel pencil by Michael Klement.

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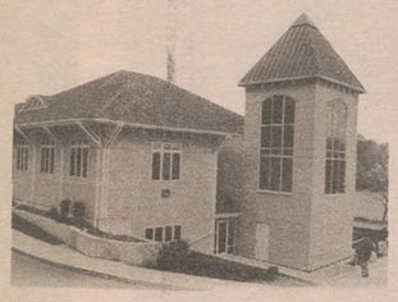

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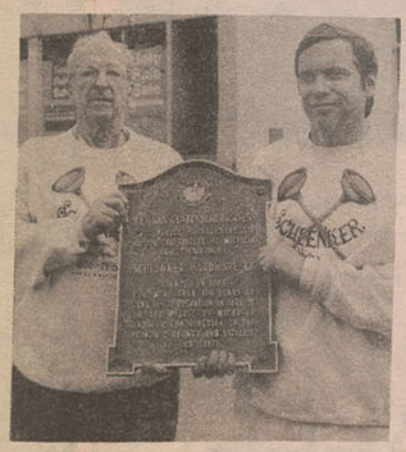

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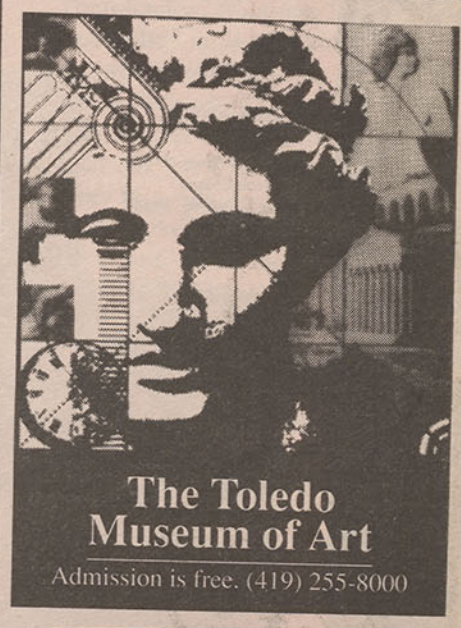

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INSIDE

The *News'* Smoking Gun

***Ann Arbor News* reporter Steve Cain scooped the nation in November when he uncovered proof that problems with the U-M regents prompted President Jim Duderstadt's decision to step down.**

The link had been widely suspected, but the regents denied any problems, and Duderstadt sidestepped the question. How'd Cain get the evidence? "Like a lot of people," said Cain, in a recent conversation, "it was pretty clear to me that there was a lot of tension between the regents and Duderstadt. So we decided to file a FOIA"—a request for public documents under the state's Freedom of Information Act.

What came back was a smoking gun. Though nothing released supported Governor Engler's claim that the regents were preparing to fire the president ("Engler vs. the Board of Regents" in November's Observer), Cain got two revealing letters: one from Duderstadt claiming the regents had made it too difficult for him to lead the university, and a reply from the regents expressing "regret" and instructing Duderstadt to remain silent on the issue.

Belatedly, both of the big Detroit dailies tried to play catch-up. Cain filed his FOIA on October 17. According to Lew Morrissey, who handles FOIA requests for the U-M, the *Free Press* filed its own FOIA's on November 2 and 3, the second of which "in effect asked for what the *Ann Arbor News* was going to get." On November 9, the *Detroit News* also FOIAed, says Morrissey—requesting "what the *Free Press* was going to get."

When Cain's request was processed, the U-M, according to one source, requested a day's grace to prepare for the publication of the letters. Though Cain declines to discuss details, he does admit that the request was made—and granted. "We got the materials on Thursday and wrote the story for Friday."

A similar story ran in the Saturday Free Press. *Although Cain's scoop was published a day earlier, the* Free Press *never mentioned it. When the Freep's account went out on the AP wire, readers around the country were given the impression that the Detroit paper had broken the story.*

10,000 Votes

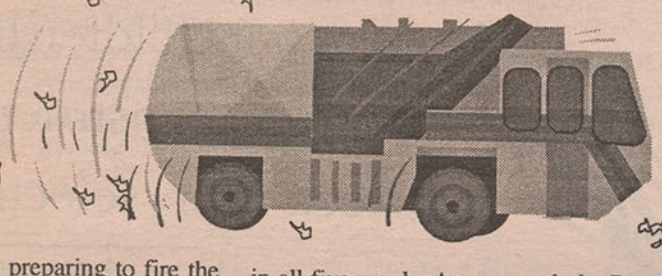
Is politics dead in Ann Arbor—or just sleeping?

Barely 10,000 residents voted in the November city election, the second-lowest turnout in more than thirty years. Only hard-core partisans seemed to care about the outcome—and not surprisingly, the partisan favorites won landslide victories in all five wards. As expected, the Republicans regained the Fourth Ward seat vacated by maverick Democrat-turned-Independent Peter Nicolas, but the Democrats held onto a comfortable 7–4 majority.

No underdog even came close. In the Second Ward, Democrat Barbara Bach cut the usual GOP margin in the ward in half—but even so, Republican newcomer **David Kwan** trounced her by 16 percentage points. In the Fourth Ward, another Republican newcomer, **Pat Putman,** coasted to a 28-point victory over labor-oriented liberal Democrat David Smith. In the three Democratic wards, Democrats won similarly lopsided victories. First Ward incumbent **Pat Vereen-Dixon** beat Republican John Kidle by 34 points, Third Ward newcomer **Heidi Cowing Herrell** beat Grant Grobbel by 35 points, and Fifth Ward incumbent **Chris Kolb** whipped John Ballew by 27 points.

The only real surprise of the election was the terrible showing of Second Ward Independent Don Kenney. Kenney was a plausible, appealing candidate who might have done well with a major party behind him, but as an independent he was able to pull in just 122 votes—5 percent of the total. Kenney was even outpolled by Fifth Ward Libertarian Renee Emry, who ran on a "grassroots" platform that highlighted her legal battles to win the right to use marijuana to treat her multiple sclerosis. Emry received 214 votes—more than the other three Libertarian candidates combined.

Recent council debates have been as lively as the election was dull. In its lame duck session, the old council infuriated developers by requiring more bicycle parking spaces in new commercial and apartment buildings. The new council's first meeting was a work session to discuss whether the city should make it tougher for peddlers and sidewalk vendors to compete with downtown stores and restaurants.



Speedy Leaf Pickups

"We were ahead of schedule on leaf collecting for the first time in the history of the city," Jeri Burbank reports proudly.

Burbank, the parts clerk for the city garage on North Main Street, credits the leaf success to an innovation dreamed up by city mechanics Mick Sayers and Paul Blevins.

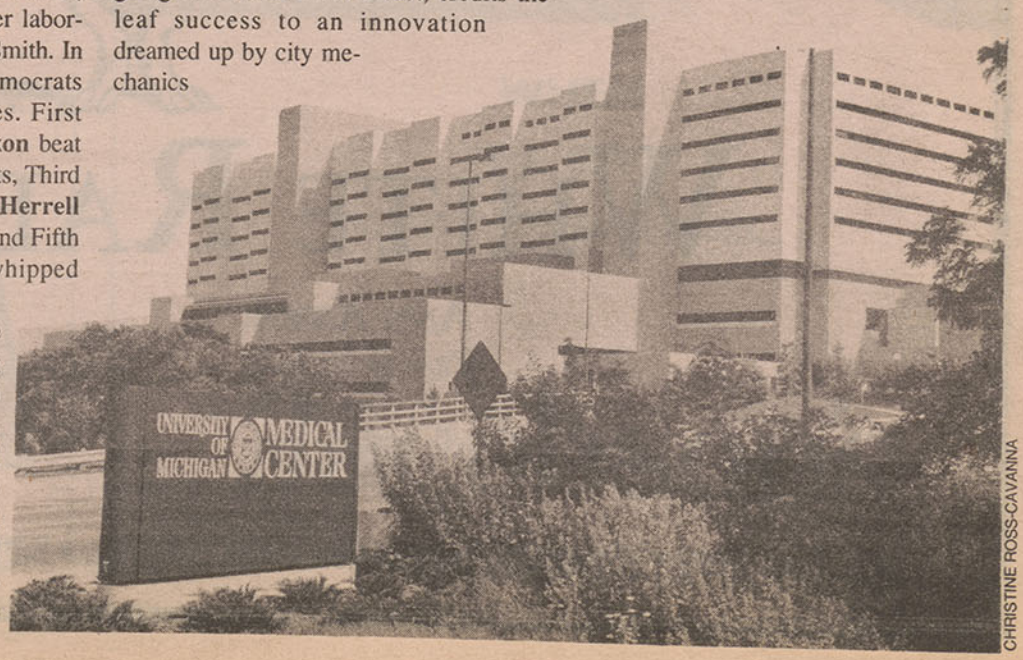
Traditionally, front-end loaders have scooped piled-up leaves into city dump trucks, which then hauled the leaves to the Materials Recovery Facility for composting. Sayers and Blevins's idea was to attach an old conveyor belt from a street sweeper to a side-loading garbage truck. The belt pulverizes the leaves as they're lifted aboard, where the truck then compacts them. "It can pick up twenty [cubic] yards of leaves," says Burbank. "You can only put four yards in a dump truck." That improves efficiency by greatly reducing the time spent driving to and from the composting site.

Like the rest of the garage staff, Sayers and Blevins were sick of hearing that government employees are lazy and inefficient. "We want to let the people know we're trying to save the city money," says garage foreman Jim Soper. It took the mechanics just two weeks to construct their extra-fast leaf collector.

UMMC Cutbacks

After reporting its first quarterly loss in recent memory, the U-M Medical Center implemented a hiring freeze in November.

Under the freeze—euphemistically called a "full attrition plan"—about 300 vacated positions at the UMMC are to remain unfilled each year. If successful, the freeze will save $15 million annually without layoffs. But many staff members fear



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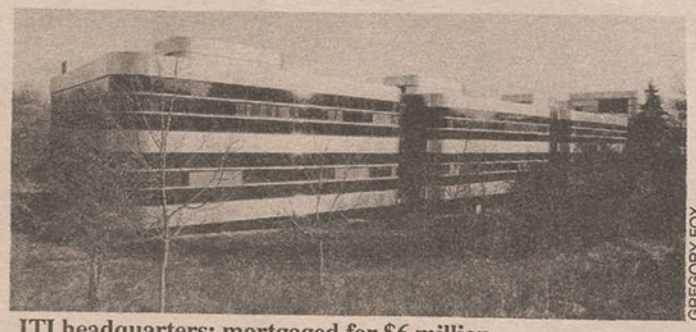
INSIDE

layoffs will ultimately be needed if the Medical Center is to be profitable again.

The U-M hospitals and the medical school clinics—recently combined as the new "Clinical Delivery System"—posted a loss of $6.7 million for the July–September quarter. "It's not due to any catastrophe from our business falling off," planning and marketing chief Ken Trester stresses. Instead, he explains, higher-than-expected expenses account for virtually the whole loss. Despite great early gains, the hospitals last year fell short of their four-year cost-cutting goal by $28 million. No progress has been made this year as the losses mounted.

Many problems originated not in the hospitals but in the medical school, where several key clinical departments failed to increase revenue in recent years. The medical school put a "flexible" hiring freeze in place in July for new faculty, but there are no other downsizing plans.

The UMMC continues to study a possible merger with Mission Health (the former Catherine McAuley Health System). A management recommendation on the merger may come as soon as December.



GREGORY FOX

ITI headquarters: mortgaged for $6 million.

ERIM + ITI

The Environmental Research Institute of Michigan (ERIM) is planning to take over the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI).

FAKE AD

Boy, oh boy, you try to do something nice for people and this is the thanks you get. Last month, we tried to make the Fake Ad (for Boundaries Book Shop, p. 136) easy to spot. We just felt it was about time to let more people in on the fun. And what did we hear from you? "I thought these things were supposed to be tough!" wrote Jim Knake. "You might have taken more care in hiding the phone number" in the stock prices, wrote Hank De Leo. "Much easier than some recent ones," wrote Dave and Grace Lovelace. (Then why did it take two of them to find it?)

Mary Bittner's name was drawn from the eighty-five correct entries we received. She's taking her gift certificate to the Common Grill in Chelsea. And the degree of difficulty is going up this month, folks. Just try to find the magic number in this one. You know what? We don't think you can!

To enter this month's Fake Ad contest, send us a card or note identifying the impostor by name and page number. Include a phone number where we can reach you during the day. Fax us, at (313) 769–3375, or drop off your entry at our offices. (No phone calls, please.) Remember, the Fake Ad always has the number 741–4141 hidden somewhere, somehow. All correct entries received at the Observer offices by noon on Monday, December 11, will be eligible for the drawing. The winner receives a $25 gift certificate for any business advertising in this issue.

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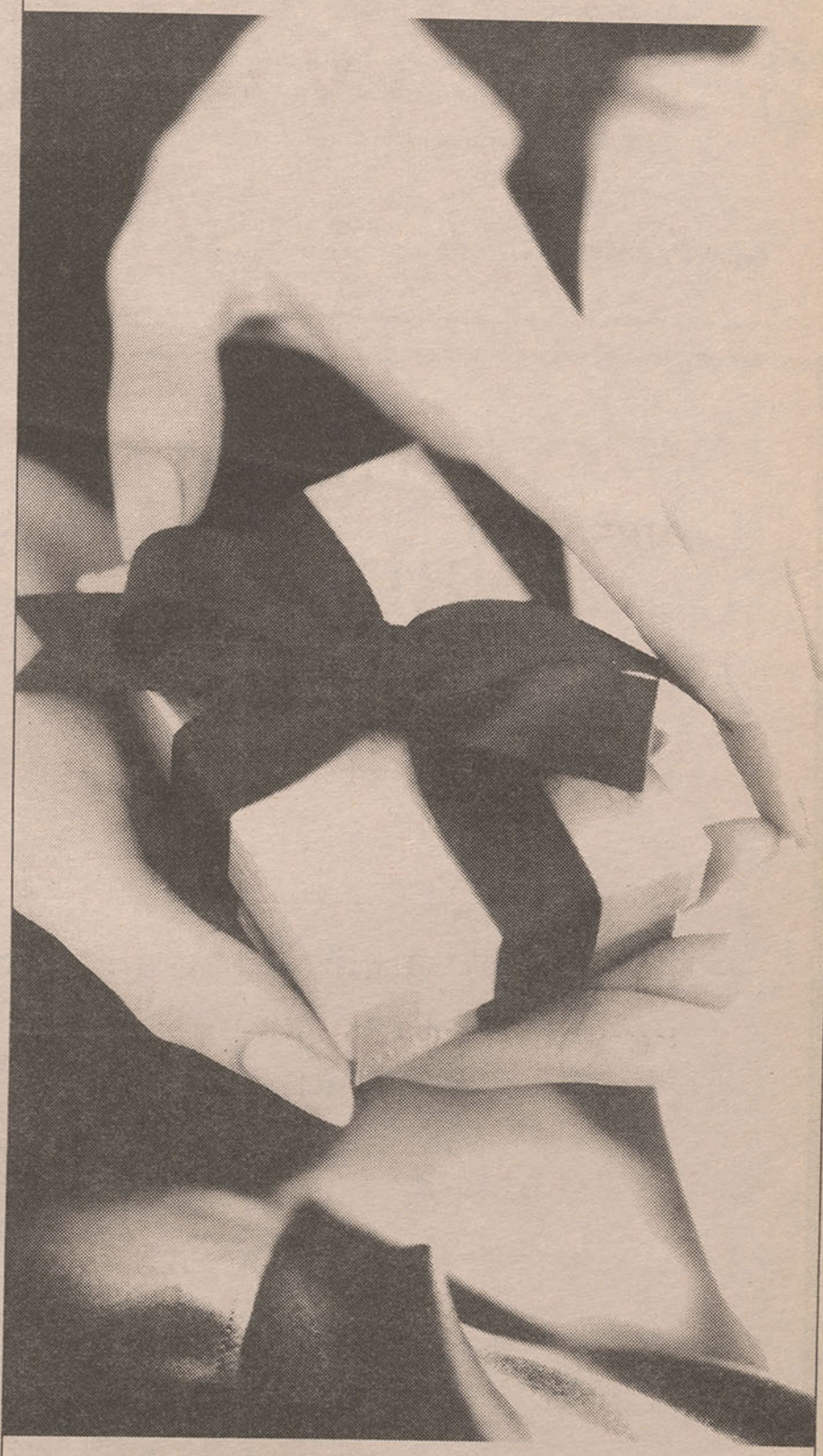

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INSIDE

The two nonprofits began talking about a merger early this year. ERIM conducts advanced research into a wide range of "imaging" techniques, mostly for the U.S. Department of Defense. ITI works with manufacturers to help solve their production problems. ERIM president Peter Banks says that ITI will help open commercial markets for ERIM's technologies and systems. "As we try to develop a stronger base with the auto industry and industry in Michigan in general, there are obvious synergisms," says Banks.

In the early 1980's ITI overspent on grandiose projects like the Robotics Evaluation Center, whose assembly-line robots proved a disaster on the auto-plant floor. Since then, ITI has concentrated more on smaller companies and more practical technologies, but has struggled financially, despite receiving more than $38 million in state funds since 1981. A bitter feud with a Grand Rapids affiliate of ITI's Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC) and with hostile federal sponsors led to another fiscal and management crisis in 1993.

Last year ITI mortgaged its futuristic North Campus headquarters for $6 million, providing much-needed breathing space. (The state guaranteed the mortgage.) Under new chairman Herb Amster and new president Ed Carlson, who together led computer company Irwin Magnetics to spectacular success in the 1980's, ITI has stabilized its finances and resumed hiring.

Now ITI needs capital to grow, says Carlson, and ERIM is an obvious source. "We're strong but small," he says. "Our ability to take advantage of opportunities that would enable us to grow are limited by our financial size."

State and federal support for the MMTC, totaling $4 million a year, is scheduled to end in 1997. But the possible loss of government funding doesn't worry ERIM's Banks. "In this sort of R&D universe nothing is forever," he says.

ITI, with a staff of ninety, will be a subsidiary of ERIM, which now employs 550. The deal could still collapse if ERIM balks at ITI's request for some guarantee that the smaller organization will be left intact.

Beyond Bartoli

Soprano Cecilia Bartoli's September concert provoked frenzy at the Burton Tower box office of a sort unseen since the days of Vladimir Horowitz.

Thanks largely to the inclusion of Bartoli's concert, subscriptions to the University Musical Society's venerable Choral

Union series increased for the first time in at least six years, from 1,240 in 1994–1995 to 1,422. Her presence also seems to have helped three younger series that offered, in addition to four performances, the right to buy single tickets for her concert: Moving Truths (dance) rose from fifty-nine subscriptions to 232 in its second year; Stage Presence (theater) went from fourteen to 245, also in its second year; and Divine Expressions (sacred music) attracted 127 in its first year.

UMS Marketing Director Adam Glaser says the society's sales boost goes beyond the Bartoli effect. According to Glaser, "the real story" is that even subscriptions to the "non-Cecilia" series, like Jazz Directions and Family Affair, more than doubled, from a total of 385 last season to 851 this year.

Sold Out

"People were lining up like for a rock show," says Purple Rose Theater managing director Alan Ribant. "I told the staff, 'This is what it must be like at the "Phantom" box office!' "

The attraction wasn't "The Phantom of the Opera," but Jeff Daniels's latest comedy, "Escanaba in da Moonlight." When the Chelsea theater decided on Monday, October 30 to extend the play's run by thirty performances, over 1,500 tickets were sold *that day*. To put that in perspective, says Ribant, ordinarily "a good day here is two hundred tickets."

The secret of the play's success? "Escanaba" is a well-written and well-acted comedy. Daniels's name itself can be a draw and the subject matter hits close to home (it's about deer hunting in the U.P.). Ribant, who says the Purple Rose draws heavily upon Ann Arbor for its audiences, notes that word of mouth probably sells as many tickets as anything else. A perfect example was this fall's "Weekend Comedy." Local critics hated it, but the show still consistently drew crowds that filled the tiny 119-seat house five nights a week.

Disappointed fans will have another chance to see "Escanaba." The play moves to Lansing's BoarsHead Theater in January. "People are asking us if we plan on moving it up north, even to the U.P.," says Ribant, "but you're taking a big risk financially to tour."

Needless to say, Daniels is delighted. "I called Jeff on location in London and he was amazed," Ribant says.

"He was so happy, which, as the playwright and executive director, you'd expect. Next fall, bigger theaters, Broadway—who knows?," Ribant adds with a chuckle.

Lil' Ones

A new monthly tabloid is aimed at local parents.

The idea for *Lil' Ones: The Resource Guide for Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Parents*, came soon after Jhoanna Robledo Wade, a former afternoon news anchor for WEMU, had her daughter, Nina, in July. Whenever she faced one of the many questions that arise for first-time parents, she found herself turning for advice to her friend Aura Ahuvia, whose son, Isaac, was then nearing his first birthday. "I said to my husband [local journalist Will Wade], 'We need a regular publication for parents. I'm always calling Aura,' " Robledo Wade explains.

Then it dawned on her: why not create a local parents' publication? In early September, she put the idea to Ahuvia, a copy editor for the *Washtenaw Jewish News*, and found her receptive. Articles on finding a baby-sitter, holiday celebrations with kids, and a first-person article by a stay-at-home dad are planned for the first issue.

For now, *Lil' Ones* will be distributed free at local children's clothing and toy stores, bookstores, and day care centers. Robledo Wade and Ahuvia say they are unsure whether the publication will continue to be free, but they do plan to expand coverage to include the rest of Washtenaw County next year.

Lil' Ones *will feature local babies on its cover. Gracing the first issue's cover: Isaac Ahuvia and Nina Robledo Wade.*

Co-op Comeback

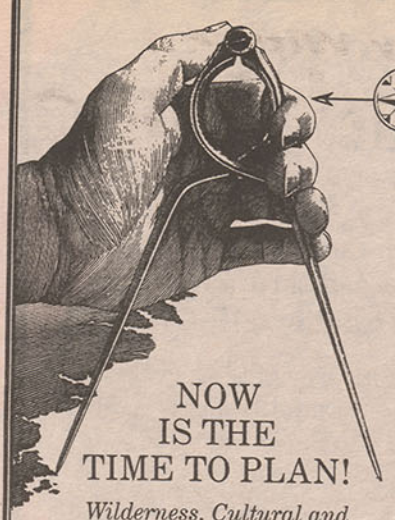
After almost not opening its doors in September, the twenty-three-year-old East Side Co-op Drop-In Center has a new lease on life.

The co-op is the only drop-in day care in town that welcomes infants. But last spring, with most of its previous crop of kids moving on to school and its director retiring, East Side faced the prospect of packing up its toys for the last time.

Instead of closing the center, the First Unitarian Universalist Church, its sponsor, hired a new director. Jenni Deakin was charged with demonstrating that East Side is still an important community resource.

"This is the only thing of its kind," notes Deakin, a certified preschool teacher. "We can entertain infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, and still let parents have contact with other adults."

That contact is one of the keys to the center's appeal. For East Side's parents, leaving their children—even if for only a couple of hours—can be liberating, but connecting with other moms and dads can be vital. Technically, parents have to stay with their children only every fourth visit,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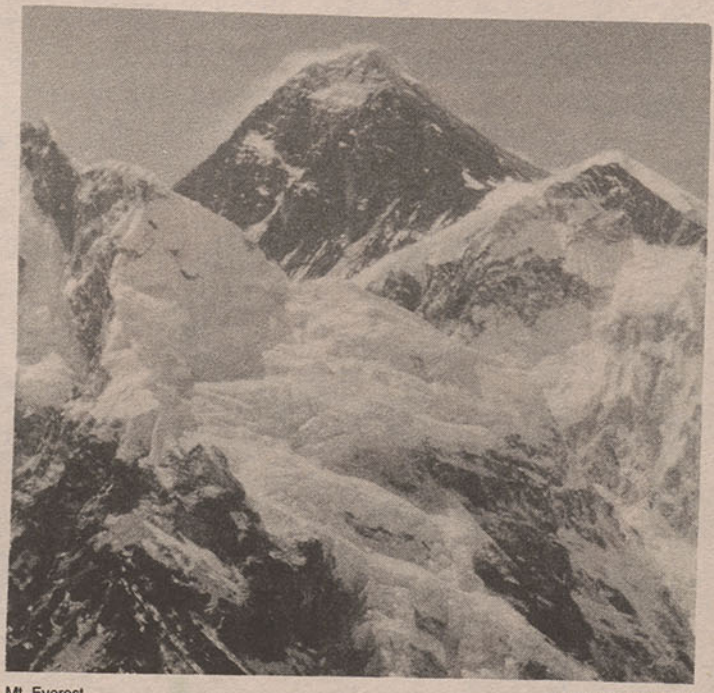
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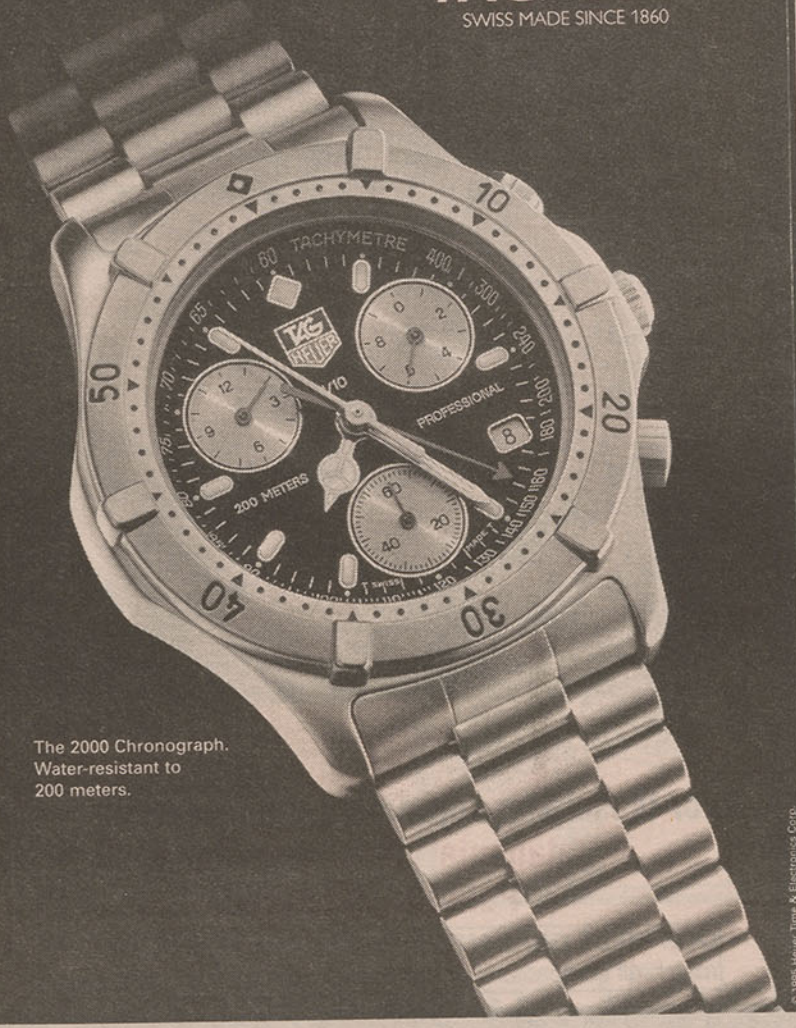

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Holiday Hours:
M–F 9:30–8:00
Sat. 9:30–6:00
Sun. noon–5:00

Family Owned & Operated Since 1921

INSIDE

but many members routinely stop in to visit with one another.

"With my first baby, Max, I felt so isolated," says Lucy Hully, whose second child, Ann, is eleven weeks old. "I stayed at home and watched TV." Now Hully brings Ann and Max, almost three, to East Side. "It's a great place to meet other moms," Hully says. "It's incredibly reassuring to know that the problems you're having are universal."

Deakin says the center needs to average fifteen children per session to remain open. One day last month, twenty-seven children and fifteen parents found their way through East Side's doors, which are open Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to noon.

noon–5 p.m. December 2 and 3. For more information, call WCA at (313) 996–2777.

Alley TV

Video cameras were installed recently in the alley behind the Michigan Theater.

Officials say that the cameras were not installed in response to crimes, either real or imagined. The cameras were part of the original plan for the Tally Hall parking structure, but were delayed for years because of technical problems. They are monitored from the Maynard Street parking structure across Liberty, and the wiring was difficult. Cameras were first installed last year but, according to local businesspeople, were quickly demolished by kids who dropped pumpkins from the adjoining parking structure.

There's speculation that a recent *Free Press* article portraying downtown Ann Arbor as a wild and woolly place might have played a role in getting the cameras replaced at last. Metal covers protect the new cameras from bombing attacks.

So far the National Garages workers who monitor the alley have witnessed no crimes, but they have seen many views of a garbage dumpster and people walking by.

ART DAY IN ANN ARBOR

Art Days

The fourth annual Art Day will be the biggest ever.

The event was founded to "show the diversity and wealth of talent in the community," says Vicki Schwager, a local jewelry designer and past coordinator. This year, for the first time, Art Day is being coordinated by the Washtenaw Council for the Arts, and it has lined up corporate sponsors: the Bravo TV network is contributing $3,000 in cash, and Continental (formerly Columbia) Cable is chipping in with $2,000 worth of free ads.

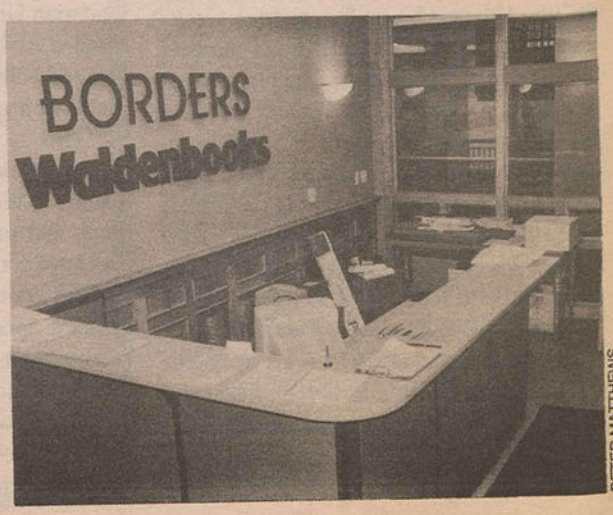
In addition to extended hours at seventeen galleries, nineteen local sculptors, painters, calligraphers, doll makers, and other craftspeople will be displaying their work in their own studios. Among those opening their doors will be Carol Morris, whose studio creates "mailable art"; jewelry maker Sara Lee Teraphim; portrait painter Carlye Crisler; watercolorist Susan Falcone; and stained-glass artist Tim Osius.

Art Day actually lasts two days. Hours are

Missing Persons

Waldenbooks has hired 10 percent fewer people than expected.

Waldenbooks' move of its corporate headquarters to Ann Arbor from Stam-



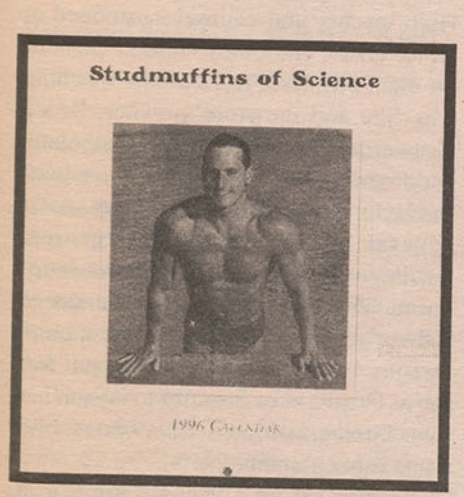
PETER MATTHEWS

ford, Connecticut, was supposed to produce 475 to 500 jobs in Washtenaw County. At least those were the numbers bandied about when the state showered the company with tax breaks and other incentives, worth a total of almost $10 million, to lure it here.

But it looks now, with hiring virtually complete, that the final number will be more like 425, according to Kevin Rutherford, Waldenbooks' human resources vice president. Such projections are rarely perfect, of course, and Rutherford "blames," if that is the word, the efficiency of Michigan workers.

"The skills and capabilities of the people we've hired have been better than we expected," says Rutherford. "Their capacity to do work and take on more responsibility has really exceeded our expectations. It speaks a lot to the Midwest work ethic and the quality of the labor pool."

Maybe planners will have to take the "Midwest effect" into account when they give out tax incentives in the future.



PC Calendars

Ann Arbor tastes in calendars lean toward the politically correct rather than the cutesy.

According to Patti Russo of Borders, cute puppy and cat calendars don't sell quite as well here as they would in a suburban store. Instead, many Ann Arborites get their warm fuzzies from Amnesty International and local ("The Great Lakes") or national ("The Sierra Club") nature pictures. The animals that we prefer in calendars are witty and offbeat, including the talking deer in the top-selling "Far Side" calendar and the pig grocery shopping in shorts and a tank top in "Pigs on Parade."

Art calendars are always very popular in Ann Arbor. Weaving is featured in "Women of the African Ark," colorful naked bodies in "The Tattoo Calendar," and Monet's Impressionist masterpieces in a perennial favorite that may end up being a top seller this year because of the big exhibit in Chicago.

"You buy a calendar that you feel reflects you," says Russo. So she's betting on the well-educated Ann Arbor market to snap up this year's novelty, "Studmuffins of Science"—a pinup calendar of twelve male Ph.D.'s in cheesecake poses.

Happy Holiday Ride

Our Warmest Thoughts and Wishes are Extended to You and Your Family for a Wonderful Holiday and a Very Happy New Year

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INSIDE

Chocolate Pro

"If you make chocolate right," says Margaret Bradley, "it can be the most beautiful thing in the world."

Bradley began making chocolates at home twenty-three years ago. Eyeing a mold of Santa's sleigh that Bradley had recently purchased at the Saline antique market, her daughter, then three years old, asked, "Why don't you fill it for Christmas?"

Bradley did. For the next two decades, though, she limited herself to making chocolates for her family and friends. Then, in the spring of 1991, she and her husband, Tom, a retired Pioneer High teacher and counselor, stopped at an ice cream and candy store in Gaylord on their way back from a bird-watching trip. She and the store's owner, Bruce Brown, got to talking about chocolate, and Brown invited Bradley to come back to Gaylord to apprentice with him. After several one-week apprenticeships, Bradley was hooked. Then Brown introduced her to Katy Kilwin, the founder of Kilwin's Chocolates. After a few more lessons from Kilwin, Bradley quit her job at Great Lakes Bancorp to launch her own business, Mae's Chocolates (the name is her grandmother's).

Bradley set up a licensed kitchen in the basement of her home and in January 1993, after six months of experimenting, landed her first customer: Farmer Grant's on Jackson Road. She now supplies Coleman's Market, Arbor Farms, Food and Drug Mart, and Nielsen's Flowers as well. "Snappers"—her version of the flat, chocolate-and-nut amphibians—and chocolate-covered pretzels are among her best-sellers. Her own favorites to make are still her chocolate molds, which include a bride and groom, a teddy bear, an "M" football and basketball, and a variety of religious motifs.

Twelve-hour days are the norm, and during busy periods—Christmas, Halloween, Valentine's Day, and Easter—Bradley's hours are longer. "I doubt I saw the light of day from September until June last year," she says. Despite the work, she says, "if I'd realized how much I love this, I'd have done it years ago."

Dixboro Deer

Comet the reindeer is appearing at the Dixboro General Store every Saturday until Christmas.

Comet is one of 150 reindeer shipped from Alaska to Howell, Michigan, sever-

PETER MATTHEWS

Reindeers for sale for $2,000 to $5,000.

al years ago by American Reindeer Herders, Inc. Exotic animal breeder John Hoose began the company with proceeds from the sale of a restaurant he and wife, Lucinda, owned. The animals were imported in partnership with an Eskimo in Alaska, since Eskimos are the only group that may lawfully own reindeer.

The Hooses have sold twenty or so reindeer as pets. The going price ranges from $2,000 to $5,000, depending on health, age, and sex.

Tidbits

Books on CD-ROM are starting to catch on in Ann Arbor.

Popular titles include *A Brief History Of Time, Maus, Ancient Cities,* and *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus.* Along with the text of a book, CD-ROM's can incorporate music, commentary, pictures, or practically anything else the author wants to put on there. "I've seen people sit there saying, 'I'm just going to look at this for a minute,' then they end up sitting there an hour and buying a copy," says Steve Warren of Borders.

❧

Forget ham and turkey. At Monahan's Seafood Market, customers order **holiday seafood**—a whole salmon to poach, a big fancy snapper, or lobster. "The Swedes have to have their lutefisk, Italians their eel," says owner Mike Monahan. "Russians like red salmon and salt herring, Jewish people like smoked fish. Everybody wants oysters and shrimp." What's tricky is getting it all to Ann Arbor during the Christmas rush. "For a couple of weeks just before Christmas, it's next to impossible to get fish flown in," says Monahan. To get fish on a plane, he has sometimes had to ship it Federal Express.

❧

Confused motorists regularly drive into oncoming traffic as they exit the city's Maynard Street parking structure. Noticing that departing drivers kept overlooking or ignoring a big "One Way" sign and another that warns "No Right Turn," attendants at the structure's booth added their own handmade sign warning motorists to make a "left turn *only.*" But people still turn the wrong way "all the time," an attendant says. Of those, "about ten a week get tickets," the worker adds. ■

Calls & Letters

House calls

November's Inside Ann Arbor item on Odyssey Computer Services noted that, to its owners' knowledge, the company was the only computer assistance company in town that makes house calls. Dan del Vecchio phoned to say that he does, too; his company is named Appropriate Technology.

Bach's role

Our November election story described Barbara Bach, the unsuccessful Second Ward Democratic council candidate, as "a leader of the neighborhood organization that has been negotiating with developer Bob Guenther [about] the Arbor Hills subdivision." Richard Teske wrote to set the record straight. "The group that has indeed been engaged in these lengthy negotiations is the Orchard Hills–Maplewood Homeowners Association, which I currently chair. . . . Ms. Bach is not, and never has been, a leader or member of our homeowners association as she does not live in our neighborhood at all." While she was not an official participant in the negotiations, Bach was praised by several speakers at city council's public hearing on Arbor Hills for her assistance in reaching a resolution.

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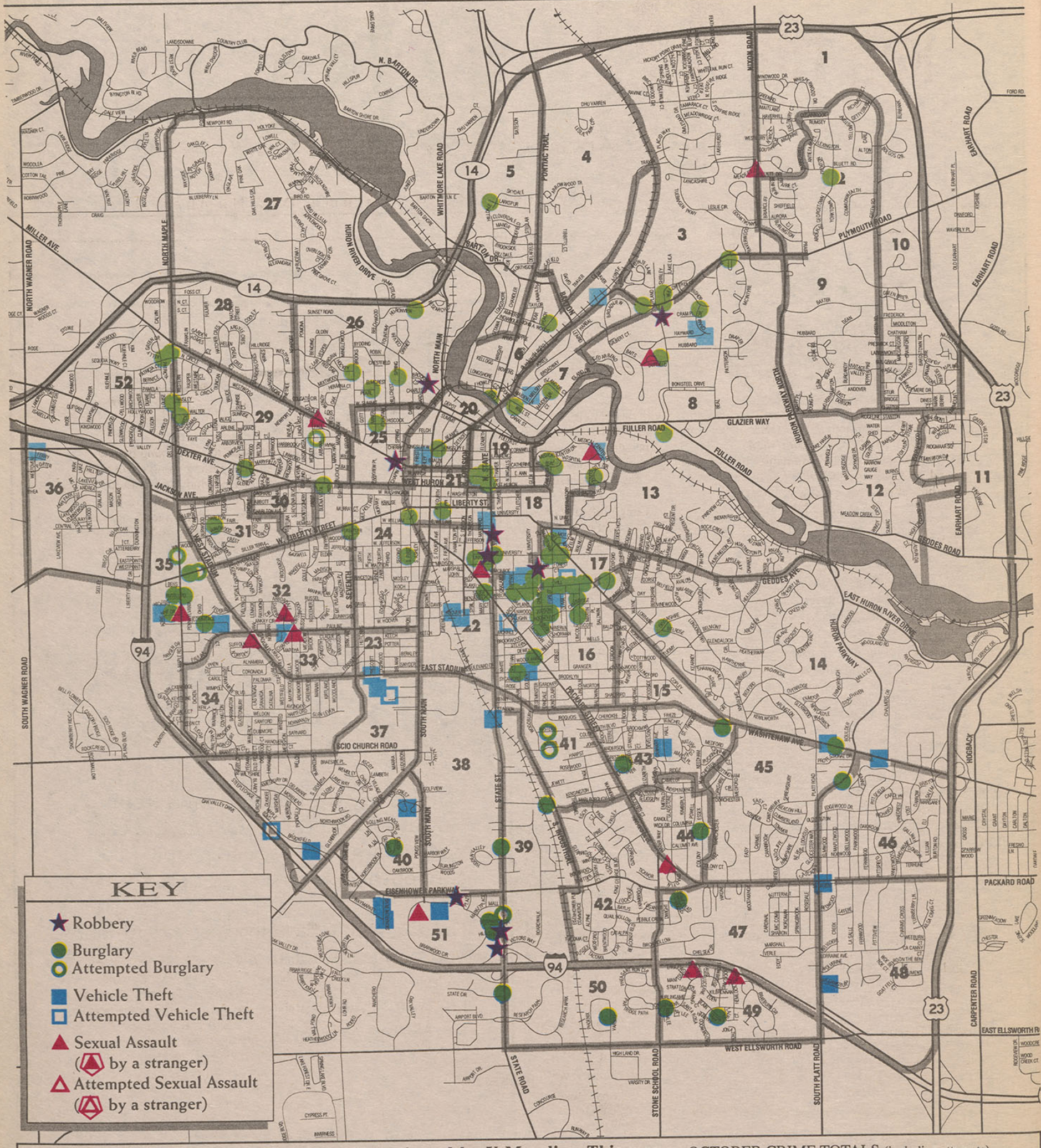
CRIME MAP: OCTOBER 1995



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the City of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during October. The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

The Crime Map now includes crimes investigated by U-M police. This may increase monthly crime totals compared to 1994 figures.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775 (Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the anonymous 24-hour tip line at 996–3199.

OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	1995	1994
Burglaries	89	80
Sexual Assaults	15	6
Vehicle Thefts	35	18
Robberies	9	17

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FOR THE PEOPLE
The Ann Arbor City Government Newsletter
Winter 1995 Volume 5 Number 4

Winning with City Hall

THE EMERGENCE OF GANGS IN ANN ARBOR

Street gang activity and the negative consequences associated with it can have a tremendous impact on our youth, their families, schools, and the community in general. It is NOT just a law enforcement issue, but rather a complex community issue that can only be solved through community-wide attention, support and intervention.

A street gang as defined by the National Drug Intelligence Center is a group or association of three or more persons who may have a common identifying sign, symbol or name, and who individually or collectively engage in, or have engaged in, criminal activity, or as a juvenile commits an act that if committed by an adult would be a criminal act. *They recognize themselves as a distinct group, and prompt a negative response from the community.* There are different types of gangs ranging from social or neighborhood gangs involved only in minor community disturbances, to delinquent gangs with more frequent police contacts, to traditional gangs that commit serious violent crimes.

Although gangs have existed in the United States since the late nineteenth century and have historically been found in inner-city areas that are economically depressed and lack resources, they are now evident in many suburbs and in smaller communities. The increased interest in gangs has been fueled by the rapid growth of gangs and by the increase in violent behavior and drug trafficking by the gangs. This interest is also evident in the form of gang culture which is supported and promoted through rap music, fashion, and movies such as *Colors, New Jack City*, and *Boyz N the Hood*.

How do we know there are gangs in our community?

Gang experts have identified four stages of gang activity: show, recruitment, full scale criminal activity, and drug trafficking and racketeering. As gangs begin to identify themselves they dress in specific colors. Colors is the term used when referring to a gang member representing his or her membership by wearing gang logos, particular colors or brands of clothing worn in a specific manner. This may include hair styles, jewelry, bandannas or clothing accessories. It may include the way a person stands, walks or folds his arms or hands. The bandanna is considered the "flag" of the gang nation.

Gang graffiti starts small and gets larger as the street gang becomes bolder and gains confidence. Graffiti consists of unique symbols and cryptic writings which have specific meaning to gang members or rivals. It is used to glorify the gang and communicate with other gang members, mark territory, and brag about activities. It is usually not meant for the general public. Gang names, symbols and other graffiti are not exclusively written outdoors. Gang members or *wanna-be* members also mark their school books, notebooks, letters, notes, shoes and clothing. They tattoo or brand their bodies, arms, legs, back, chests, hand and necks with gang identifying symbols.

Joining A Gang Is A Dead End!

Are there certain types of youth who join gangs?

Gangs recruit new members by promising four basic social needs: affection, recognition, belonging and a sense of identity. Youths are often confronted by gang members in their neighborhoods or in schools and asked to join. Young people who have trouble getting along in school or with parents or who find it difficult to conform to society's norms tend to join gangs. There are no ethnic, racial, or economic barriers. Gangs are like families in that all members know and trust each other and feel that they belong together.

The Ann Arbor Police Department has received reports of gang related incidents occurring in the city. These incident reports increased in the fall of 1994 and have continued to increase. We have reached the third stage; full scale criminal activity.

The police department has been tracking gang related incidents since July of 1995, and 79 incidents have been reported. These incidents include malicious destruction of property, felonious assault, shots fired and one homicide. The police department has identified five gangs operating within Ann Arbor city limits, the estimated number of members is believed to be approximately 100.

As stated earlier, the gang situation is NOT just a law enforcement issue, but rather a complex community issue that can only be solved through community-wide attention, support and intervention. But, the news is not all doom and gloom. Some proactive approaches have already been taken and others can be implemented to gain control and minimize the escalation of violence and crime. The Ann Arbor Police Department has taken a very aggressive and proactive approach to this issue:

- A gang committee has been established to evaluate the gang situation within the city limits and make long term plans to address the problem.

- Communications and exchange of information has been continual between law enforcement agencies within

". . .government of the people, by the people, for the people . . ."

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Winning with City Hall, contd

Washtenaw County as well as surrounding communities.

☛ Established a gang information system to monitor gang members and activities.

☛ City-wide education. The police department has established a community-wide education/awareness program to deal with gang issues. This training program is offered to parents, school officials, and community members on awareness, identifiers, and prevention of gang activity. Call 994-8775 to request the program.

☛ Research of city ordinances that have helped other cities curb gang activity such as curfew ordinances, selling spray paint or paraphernalia to minors, graffiti removal, school policy on gang attire on school property, etc.

So what can you do to prevent the spread of gangs within the city?

There is much that can be done. Again, *this is not just a police problem, rather a community one* and should be addressed as such. Studies have shown over and over again that if a community waits until a horrendous incident takes place before admitting it has a gang problem, the situation is already out of control. The following is a list of prevention ideas for communities:

* Open schools in the evening to provide recreational opportunities for juveniles.
* Establish a community gang task force and a school-community advisory council to plan long term strategies.
* Establish or re-establish a neighborhood watch group within your neighborhood.
* Report all suspicious persons/groups, activity, and vehicles to the police.
* Do not publish names of gangs when reporting crimes in the media.
* Report all gang graffiti, so it may be photographed, documented and removed.
* Support efforts to pass ordinances that help prevent gang activity.

-Adele Akouri, Ann Arbor Police Department

A CITY EMPLOYEE WHO KNOWS A LOT ABOUT JOBS

Whenever someone learns that Bob Treadway, a senior technician in the City's Human Resources Department, speaks fluent Chinese, the reaction is always the same: "Bob Treadway speaks Chinese! Wow!" This quiet, unassuming man is clearly not well known by many employees, but his life is both varied and interesting.

Treadway, 56, and his two younger sisters grew up in Franklin, Michigan. After graduating from Bloomfield Hills High School in 1957, he attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he received a B.S. in government in '61. A two-year Army stint came after college. "Believe it or not, I was a lieutenant in the military police," he says.

After getting a teaching certificate at the U of M in '64, Treadway embarked upon a ten-year career as a teacher, specializing in government and world cultures, at Berkley and Roeper High Schools. His interest in Asian and African civilizations prompted his pursuit of a master's degree in Chinese Studies, which he obtained in '71 at U of M. It was during this time that he learned to speak Chinese, he says, but he was already fluent in both French and Spanish and can "get along" in Korean. "As a child, I was both fascinated and intimidated by languages," he says. "I'm proud that I was able to conquer my fear." He also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from U of M. Obviously, he enjoys learning.

In January of '74, Treadway, "on a lark," went to work for the Oakland County Personnel Department. He stayed there five years and began working for the City's personnel department in 1979. As a senior personnel technician, he assists departments with job interviews and hiring. He also is currently helping write job descriptions and assisting with sexual harassment training for employees. Labor relations and negotiations are also part of his duties.

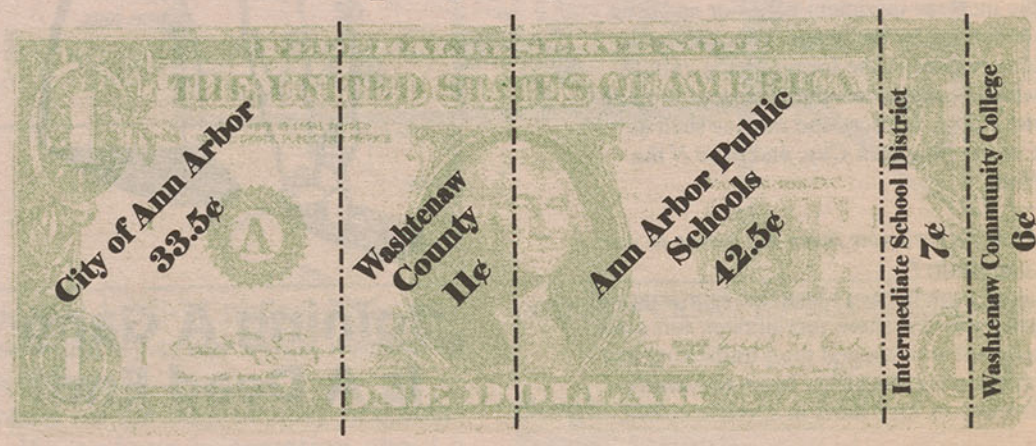
Treadway and his wife Mary Alice were married on June 16, 1967, his last day of teaching at Berkley High School. "I was too sick to call in sick following my bachelor's party the night before," he says. Today they are the proud parents of Rob, 27, Alicia, 22 (both U of M grads) and Nolan, 17, a senior at Huron High.

In addition to being an avid runner and biker, Treadway enjoys gardening with Project Grow and singing in the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor choir. Since 1990, he has worked as a tax preparer for H&R Block and teaches classes in tax preparation in his spare time.

Bob Treadway is a busy, involved person who, like many City employees, is a Jack of several trades. "I love Ann Arbor," he says. "It is a great community."

-Winifred Northcross, Interim City Administrator and City Clerk

Here's how every dollar you pay in Homestead property taxes is spent:



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Winning with City Hall, contd

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor - Ingrid Sheldon

Ward 1

Tobi Hanna-Davies and Patricia Vereen–Dixon

Ward 2

Jane Lumm and David Kwan

Ward 3

Jean Carlberg and Heidi Cowing Herrell

Ward 4

Stephen Hartwell and Patrick Putman

Ward 5

Elisabeth Daley and Christopher Kolb

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 3 -	Joint Caucus Meeting
December 4 -	City Council Meeting
December 17 -	Joint Caucus Meeting
December 18 -	City Council Meeting
December 22 -	City Hall closes at noon
December 25 -	City Hall closed
December 29 -	City Hall closes at noon
January 1 -	City Hall closed

City Council Meetings begin at 7:30pm in Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of City Hall. Council Meetings are broadcast live on Ann Arbor Community Television Network, Channel 10. Joint Caucus Meetings begin at 7:30pm in the Firehall Conference Room.

Environmental Update

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULES

The seasonal weekly curbside **Compostable** collection will end on November 30, 1995 and will resume service on April 1, 1996.

Due to the year-end holidays, there will be no refuse or recycling collection services provided on **Christmas Day**, Monday, December 25, 1995 and on **New Year's Day**, January 1, 1996. The normal Monday collections will occur on Tuesday and continue one day later through the week with the Friday collection areas serviced on Saturday during these two holiday weeks. The commercial "green bag" recycling collections will also occur one day later than usual during these two weeks only. There is no interruption of collection service for Martin Luther King Day on January 15.

RECYCLING AND REFUSE QS? CALL 99-GREEN!

It's the night before your refuse and recycling collection day and you have a question. What can you do? Dial 99-GREEN for comprehensive information on the City's services for everything from handling appliances to buying compost. This phone service delivers information on the 30 categories of recyclables in Ann Arbor (12 new items since September, 1996) plus information on solid waste services, drop-off stations and more! It's as easy as a phone call to get the answers you need. You can also request information to be mailed to your home or have your call returned during business hours. Stumped by a stump? Hung-up on a hanger? Under pressure on handling an empty aerosol can? Concerned over the holiday collection schedule? Call 99-GREEN!

NEW TRASH CARTS DOWNTOWN

The Solid Waste Department is conducting a one year pilot to test wheeled carts for handling trash in downtown alleys. The program uses black 95 gallons carts that hold about 3 times the volume of a standard household trash can. These carts have been placed in select downtown alleys to test their effectiveness in keeping the alleys cleaner. Next time you're walking downtown, see if you notice the improvement!

NEW RECYCLABLES

In September, the City added 12 new items to the recyclables collected from residents and businesses. New items now accepted in the containers bin are milk cartons and juice boxes, broken ceramic dishware, empty aerosol cans, and scrap metal up to 1 square foot in size. In the paper bins, there is now no sorting required for newspapers, glossy magazines, corrugated cardboard, phonebooks and paperbacks, catalogs, school paper and "junk mail." Only boxboard (e.g., cereal boxes, paper egg cartons) should be loosely bagged. Clean textiles, including clothing, paired shoes and linens are now accepted. Please place textiles in a see-through plastic bag or labeled colored bag and put in the paper recycling bin. Remember to reduce and reuse these items by donating good clothing and paperback books to others before directing the remaining fibers for recycling. Questions? Call 99-GREEN!

MRF EDUCATION CENTER

The City's new Material Recovery Center has an education center, which is available for group tours, monthly open houses and community meetings. The monthly open houses are second Tuesdays from 1-4 pm and second Saturdays from 10-1. Please call 971-8402 for more information.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

The City of Ann Arbor will provide for curbside collection of **holiday evergreen trees** for a two-week period from Monday, January 15 through Friday, January 27, 1996. Please have all trees at the curb by 7 am on your weekly refuse and recycling day. Remember to remove all plastic tree bags, ornaments and stands from the trees. These trees are processed into mulch or compost and any metal, glass or plastic left on the trees may harm the operators, ruin the equipment and spoil the finished product.

Holiday evergreen trees may also be taken directly to the Compost Center, 4120 Platt Road near East Ellsworth, 994-2723. Ann Arbor apartment managers may schedule a special tree pickup with the Solid Waste department, 994-2807. During the month of January there are no charges for these services to multi-family residence management companies.

Evergreen wreaths with wire or plastic backings should be placed in the trash.

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

Update from Parks Dept.

Usual, Unusual Midwinter Fun

The Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation's annual **Winter Carnival** is scheduled to take place **February 9 - 11**, and activities are geared for all ages. Events are as follows:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Moonlight Serenade -Huron Hills Cross Country Ski Course, 3465 E. Huron River Drive in Ann Arbor. 6:30 - 9:00 pm. $2.50/person. Equipment rental available. Call 971-6840 for details.

Winter Evening at Cobblestone Farm - 2781 Packard Road. 6:00 - 9:00 pm. $2 per person or $8 per family. Call 994-2928 for information.

Mack Pool Luau - 715 Brooks St. 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Admission is $2.50 for adults and $1.50 for youths and seniors. Includes tropical refreshments. Call 994-2898.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Valentine Skate - Veterans Memorial Park Ice Arena, Jackson and Maple Roads in Ann Arbor. 8:00 - 9:30 pm. Admission is $4.00 for adults and $3.25 for youths and seniors. Skate rental available. Call 761-7240 for details.

Snoball Classic - a softball game in the snow. Veterans Softball Fields at the corner of Dexter and Maple Roads. Pre-registration is necessary. Registration fee is $90 per team of 6 players; at least half of team members must be women. Starting time depends on number of teams entered. For more information call Mark Comstock at 663-0098.

Buhrrr Fest - Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Rink, 2751 Packard Road in Ann Arbor. Winter activities in and around the outdoor ice rink include ice cream eating contest, big wheels on ice, and broomball. The fee is $2.50 for adults and $2.00 for youths and seniors. 2:30 - 4:30 pm. For information please call 971-3228.

Victorian Valentine Tea Party - Kempf House, 312 S. Division St. in Ann Arbor. Includes Victorian valentines and refreshments. (Also held on Sunday, February 11). Call 994-4898 for details.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Winter Fun Day - Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road in Ann Arbor. Indoor and outdoor science activities for the entire family from 1 - 4 pm. The fee is $3 per person/$10 per family. Children under 3 are free. For information please call 662-7802.

Winter Carnival brochures will be available at all recreation facilities, the Ann Arbor Y, the public libraries, and at the Department of Parks and Recreation, 6th Floor of City Hall. For general information, please call 994-2780.

BUSINESSES SUPPORT SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT THE LESLIE SCIENCE CENTER

Local businesses have generously supported the Leslie Science Center and its field trip program for schools.

Many teachers in local public schools, especially from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, have told us that they want their students to take part in the environmental education programs offered at the Leslie Science Center but do not have the funds. Three years ago, the Center began its Adopt-A-Class program which obtains funds from local businesses to enable these school groups to come to our site. Last year, businesses sponsored 45 busloads or 1,300 students.

This year, we are pleased to announce the first group of community-minded businesses that have supported this program. Contributors are as follows:

$500
Whole Foods Market
Comerica Bank

$300
Victory Lane Quick Oil Change

$150
Anderson Paint
A-1 Rental
WBSX-TV
John Leidy Shop
AfterWords Bookstore
S&H Brake Distributing
Play It Again Sports
Wilderness Outfitters
Crown House of Gifts
Progressive Dental
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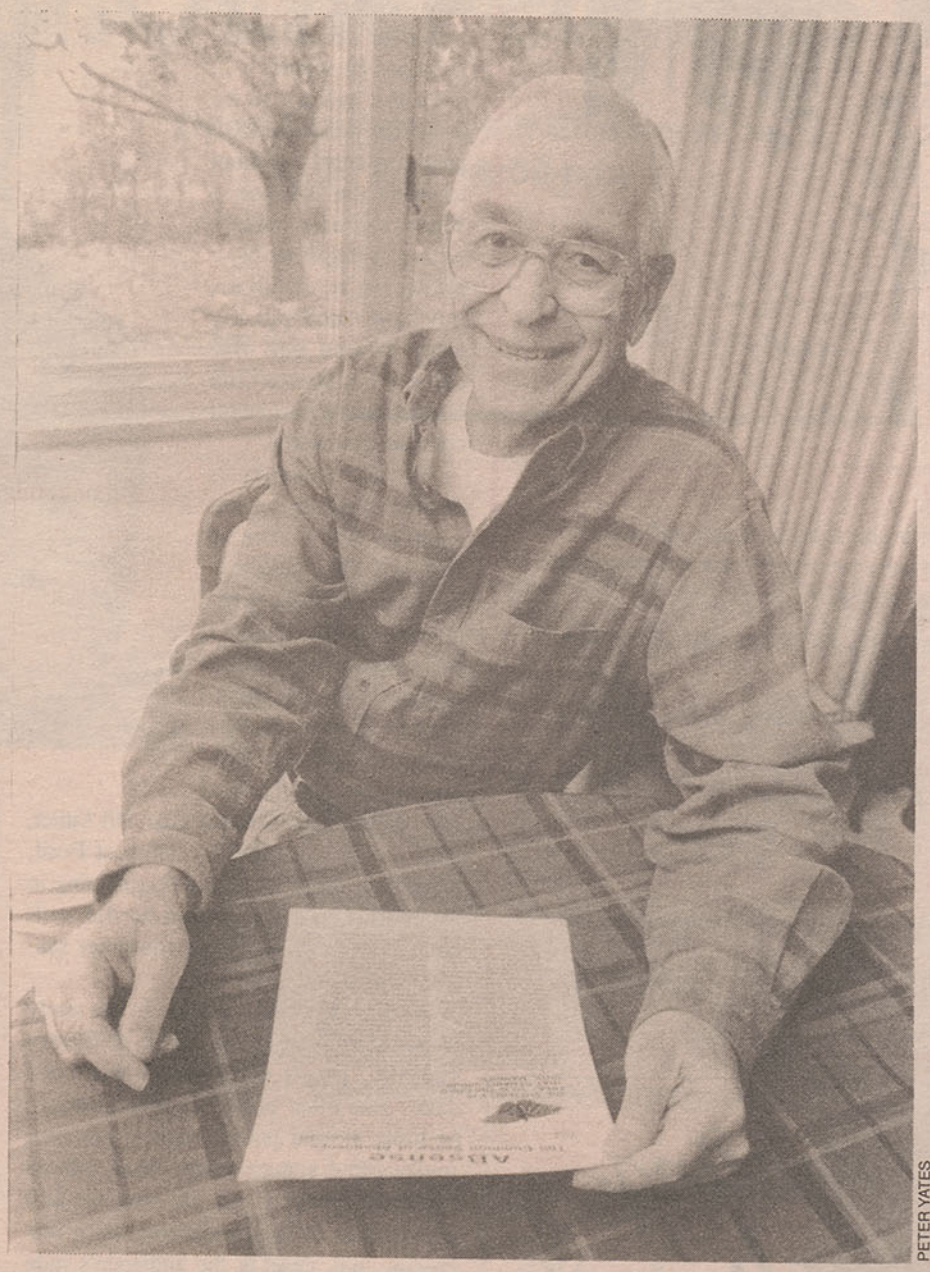
ANN ARBORITES

Mervil Miller

Teen abstinence advocate



PETER YATES

Last spring, Mervil Miller directed a one-act play as part of a new playwrights series at the Civic Theater. The former Pioneer High School drama teacher, whose enthusiastic students took many awards in statewide drama contests over the years, was doing what comes naturally. After congratulating him, an acquaintance asked what else he had been doing since he retired in 1993. "Oh," said Miller matter-of-factly, "I'm writing a newsletter on abstinence."

The newsletter is part of Miller's casually conducted one-man campaign against sex before marriage. Tall, handsome, and gray-haired, Miller, sixty-seven, is striking in his sincerity and openness. "My position is that there is no such thing as 'safe sex,' " he says, referring to unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. But rather than using fear as a motivation for chastity, he's much more likely to talk about the idea that young people should enjoy their teen years as a time to grow emotionally and intellectually without the distractions of sex.

It can be lonely trying to deliver that message. Recently, Miller met with three of his former students, now college freshmen and sophomores, at a downtown restaurant. He was able to get only one of the three to even consider his message. The other two, he says, advocated "smart safe sex."

Miller first became concerned about teen sexuality about eight years ago, when he read that the AIDS epidemic had reached teenagers. "I thought, 'How devastating—that from one episode of sexual intercourse you could get such a grim disease.' So I decided to take a position on it." Another motivation was an occasion when his class was discussing teenage sex and he realized that about half the kids were sexually active. The sexually active kids "had all kinds of people telling them how to have safe sex," he says. He decided the other half needed a voice.

Miller isn't part of any official pro-abstinence group, although he was affiliated briefly with a now-defunct local group called Citizens for Family Values. Unlike many abstinence advocates, he has no political or religious agenda.

Above all, Miller says, he wants to encourage parents to talk to their kids about abstinence before they're adolescents—"when their hormones start popping," as he puts it. But his main effort is researching and writing his quarterly newsletter, in which his thoughtful ruminations are sometimes spiced with humorous, practical advice for parents. "You can tell your children to 'abstain from writing on the walls' as a way to make abstinence a common, every-day word," he wrote.

Married for forty-three years and the father of four, Miller admits that he himself was not celibate before marriage. "I'm sorry I can't set myself up as an example," he says ruefully.

Sometimes, he admits, he feels he's wasting his time. After all, according to one statistic, 67 percent of high school students are sexually active. "It has crossed my mind to give it up," he says of his campaign. "But then something usually happens to rejuvenate my interest. Then I can't help myself. I've got to do it. The need is still there."

—Debbie Eisenberg

Bob Hicok

Unlikely poet

The poetry reading at Shaman Drum has just ended and the crowd is breaking up. People mill around and gather in small groups, greeting friends, congratulating the author.

But Bob Hicok, the organizer and sponsor of the event, and himself an accomplished poet, moves off to a side room of the bookstore. "I'm still getting used to being part of the whole 'literary scene,' " he confesses.

Ready or not, the thirty-five-year-old automotive die designer and computer system administrator has achieved a success that many writers who've spent their lives in writing workshops can only dream of: his second poetry collection, *The Legend of Light*, won this year's prestigious Felix Pollack Prize in Poetry. His reading at Shaman Drum on December 8 (see Events) will be only the latest in a whirlwind of national appearances this fall and winter.

Like his poems, Hicok possesses an obstinate simplicity. Dark-haired, with startling deep-set eyes, he speaks slowly and deliberately. His gritty, poignant poems cover a wide range of subjects, both personal and political. Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Carolyn Kizer praised his work for a "kind of severity, a moral accuracy." Hicok himself says, "If I had to pick one criticism about myself it's that there's almost a preachy quality that creeps in."

But he dislikes "the little tiny contained poems" of many contemporary writers, poems that avoid moral judgments. In his poem "Divorce," the narrator, dispirited by

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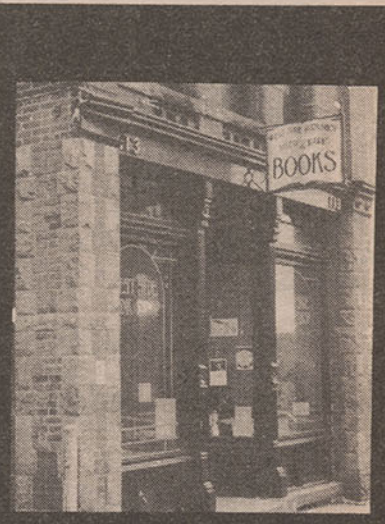

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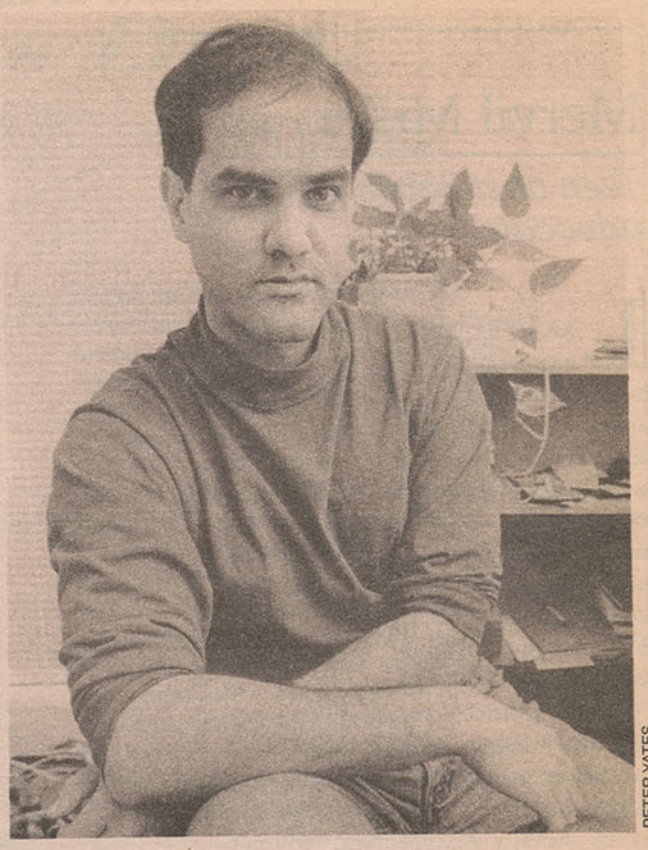

PETER YATES

the breakup of a friend's marriage, climbs into bed with his own wife. In similar circumstances, he hopes he would ". . . have the grace / to be honestly miserable, to break the bond / without trashing the beloved. / When she asks what's wrong, I begin to say / idiots, we're all idiots, but stop / and put my arms around her. Because / we're not, and because warmth's / better comfort than words."

Hicok's success is doubly impressive because he didn't come up through the academic creative writing programs that seem almost a prerequisite for literary recognition today. He attended Grand Valley State College (now University), but left school a few courses short of his degree. His father, who ran the tool and die shop at Ford, helped him get a job at Jay Engineering in Wyandotte in 1985, where he did well enough to be promoted to computer system administrator.

He began writing poems in his early twenties, without a clear sense of literary tradition. "People don't believe this, but I didn't read other poets," he says. Instead, he hung around poetry slams—raucous, smoke-filled venues where local authors read their works aloud. He won the $10 grand prize at the Heidelberg slam one evening, but, upset at the audience's rude treatment of an earlier contestant, he burned the bill onstage. "I was pretty drunk," he admits.

Eventually Hicok took over as organizer of the Slam. A correspondence with Detroit poet M. L. Liebler led to Liebler's publishing Hicok's first collection, *Bearing Witness*, in 1991. A bit bemused by his current celebrity, Hicok candidly admits that he's doing readings on the literary circuit in order to gain recognition. But he resents the interruptions of his writing and plans no major changes in his life. "If I don't write, I'm a bad person to talk to, I'm a bad person to be with," he says.

"I have such a boring life, and I like it that way." —*Jennifer Dix*

Carroll Thomson

Happily phasing in one career after another

PETER YATES

Carroll Thomson is a slender blur. It's lunchtime on a recent Saturday at the Trellis Cafe & Tea Room. A dozen diners comfortably sip iced tea and mull over their menus. Meanwhile, Thomson, the owner, has a problem: no waitresses today.

So this woman, who appears to have no second gear, speeds up.

One second she is placing the croutons just so on a salad, the next making change at the cash register. And then she is back out in the calm of her pastel-colored room, joking easily with two silver-haired ladies.

"I've always had a lot of things to do and a lot of energy," she says, her blue eyes glinting with humor.

Indeed. Thomson, fifty-three, is now on her third or perhaps fourth career, depending on how you count. At the moment, she is mistress of a tearoom and owner of Carroll's Corner, a gift-gourmet shop next door at the small shopping center at Plymouth and Green roads. But she has also been a housewife and mother, an office manager, and administrator of the Oak Trails Montessori School. Not to mention Red Cross volunteer chair and writer-director-tap dancer for the Thurston Players, whose annual original musicals benefit Thurston Elementary School.

This peripatetic work style just may be the best way to run your life, according to social observer Gail Sheehy, whose latest best-seller, *New Passages,* examines middle-aged life. Sheehy's formula for a good life: put off retiring until age seventy-five and in the meantime plan on phasing in a new career several times.

Thomson could have been Sheehy's archetype. "She's been successful because she has built on each of the things she has done in her life," says her husband, John, a Ford engineer.

In the decade she spent at the Montessori school, she did everything but teach—turning out volumes of state-required paperwork, writing the newsletter, hiring staff and teachers, organizing parent meetings, and, in a pinch, driving the school bus. "She was wonderfully competent and well organized," says Winnie Wylie, the school's founder and director, grateful that Thomson helped pull the school out of the red. And when Thomson left, says Wylie, two people could not handle her job.

Thomson left Oak Trails in 1984 to start Carroll's Corner. Although aware that "fifty percent of businesses die in the first year," she says, "it never occurred to me that I wouldn't succeed." The bright, cheerful shop now sells coffee, tea, spices, scones, muffins, cookies, and a fine collection of paraphernalia for afternoon tea: books with titles like *A Proper Tea* and *A Cup of Tea*; sets of cups and saucers; and teapots.

Days are long. In addition to running the store and the tearoom, she does almost all the baking, with her husband's help. "Sixty-to-eighty-hour weeks are normal. I go to work happy in the morning, but by night I don't know whether I'm happy or not," she laughs.

It might seem that four careers are enough for anyone. But not for Carroll Thomson. Two months ago, she and John bought a bed and breakfast home just west of Ann Arbor. And Thomson, of course, is making plans.

"We could have a tearoom two or three afternoons a week . . . and we could have weddings . . . and . . ."

—Gerald Volgenau

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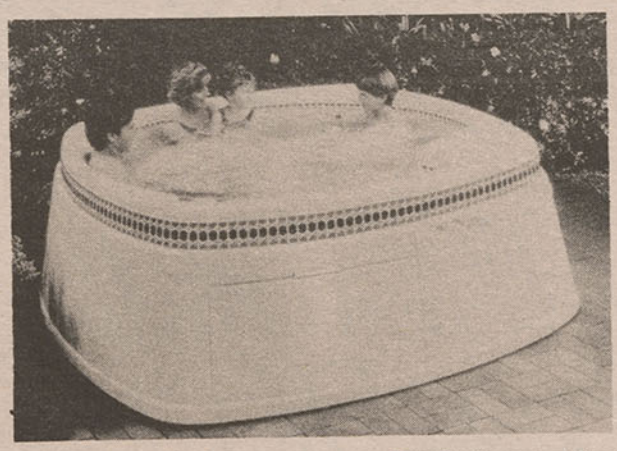

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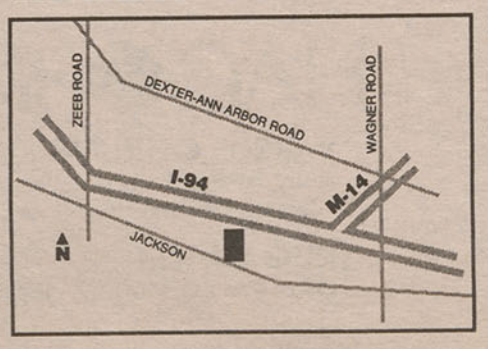

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The Herz Paint Store

Behind its modest storefront was the classiest interior decorating firm in Ann Arbor

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(Above) Within ten years of opening his Ann Arbor paint store, William Herz built this two-story brick storefront on West Washington. After years of neglect, it's being restored to its nineteenth-century appearance (right).

PETER MATTHEWS

Frequenters of downtown have enjoyed watching the recent transformation of the Cracked Crab building at 112 West Washington back to its nineteenth-century appearance. William Herz erected the building about 1880 as a paint store, and his family continued in business there for more than eighty years. Under Herz's ownership, and later that of his son, Oswald, the Herz Paint Store became the premier painting and decorating firm in town.

William Herz, a Prussian, learned his trade in Berlin. Born in 1849, he began his apprenticeship at age fourteen, learning painting, frescoing, varnishing, and sign painting. He emigrated at age twenty to join his parents, who had preceded him to Ann Arbor.

Herz opened his own business shortly after he arrived. Working fourteen-hour days, six days a week, he sold paint and related supplies and also decorated many private homes and public buildings. Within ten years, he had nine employees and was able to replace his small store with the two-story brick building on West Washington. He and his wife, Sophia Muehlig, (they married in 1874) also built an impressive house at 603 West Huron, joining other prosperous Germans on that street. He served on city council for eight years, representing the Second Ward (approximately today's Old West Side). Since Ann Arbor had not yet built its first city hall, he probably hosted some of the council meetings in his store.

When William Herz died in 1913, his son, Oswald, took over. Alice Godfrey remembers Oswald Herz as "aristocratic in manner, always dressed up, and very polite and gentlemanly." Professionally, says architect David Osler, Herz was "*the* painter and decorator of Ann Arbor."

Herz didn't dazzle his customers with fancy displays. Bill Dettling, longtime cook at the Old German next door, says the store looked "like an old-time grocery store, with shelves on all sides." On one side, glass cases displayed paint brushes. Along the other side, rolls of wallpaper were stacked like rugs. Morrie Dalitz owned Varsity Laundry and delivered clean towels and linens to the store. He remembers it as mostly inventory, not displays; "like himself, Herz kept the place neat."

Herz didn't need to display his inventory, because he worked so well from memory. Mary Culver remembers going to the store with her mother to pick out wallpaper for the bedroom she was taking over from her brother, who was serving in World War II. After they described what they had in mind, Herz simply reached up to the shelves and brought down several appropriate samples. Angela Dobson Welsh remembers that Herz always had the latest thing, including "very modern" wallpaper designs from California.

Herz's paint, like everything else he sold, was top quality. Welch, whose parents often used Herz's services, remembers that his paint jobs seemed to last forever and could be washed without damage. Osler likens hiring Herz to buying a Mercedes. His workmen would first clean and sand the walls and then apply six or seven coats of paint.

Bill Wente, a longtime employee, supervised Herz's crews. Most of the dozen or so employees lived on the Old West Side and walked to work. The firm's single truck was used to deliver the crews and their supplies to jobs. If Herz wanted to check on them during the day, he rode his bicycle.

Home owners trusted Herz and his crews, even turning over their house keys so work could proceed while they were off on vacation. Herz, in turn, would help out in their absence by accepting packages, arranging to cut the lawn or shovel the walk, or even sending forgotten clothes.

Herz had a reputation as an autocratic interior designer. Morrie Dalitz recalls that if Herz said a red chair was needed and a customer objected to red, Herz would order a red one anyway. Welch remembers that he worked in many styles, from traditional to modern, and that the final results were "different looking, something you didn't see anywhere else." Herz was also a potter. He had a kiln on the second floor of

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his store and offered classes several nights a week.

Like his father, Herz did at lot of work for the U-M, and he also worked closely with Goodyear's department store. Most of his private clients were from the east side, where many professors and successful business people lived. Jesse Coller, wife of surgeon Fred Coller, had a knack for decorating and often helped her friends with their houses. According to Welch, she was a great champion of Herz and sent all her friends to him.

Herz never married. When he died in 1954, he left the business to four faithful employees, including Wente, who continued to run it. But according to Osler, the paint business was changing drastically by then. With the advent of mixing machines and ready-mixed colors, department and discount stores were moving in on the turf that had once belonged exclusively to local paint stores.

Herz had a reputation as an autocratic interior designer. Morrie Dalitz recalls that if Herz said a red chair was needed and a customer objected to red, Herz would order a red one anyway.

At the end of 1963, the partners closed the business and sold the building to Herman Goetz, who changed it to a bar and grill. In 1971 the Cracked Crab took over and did a major remodeling that covered the facade, added a phony first-story roof, and lowered the entrance by removing the stepping-stone with Herz's name etched in it. (It can be found embedded in the sidewalk by the Del Rio's side door.)

The Cracked Crab expanded into the adjacent storefront in 1978. Both buildings are now owned by the same partnership that owns the former Old German building at 120, now the Grizzly Peak Brewing Company. Using old photographs found by Susan Wineberg, managing partner Jon Carlson is restoring the building and recreating its nineteenth-century appearance. He has removed the Cracked Crab's facade and white paint to reveal the original deep-orange brick. In consultation with historic paint expert Rob Schweitzer, he is painting the building's non-brick details in red, yellow, green, and brown, historically accurate colors that also complement the Grizzly Peak.

Carlson's new tenant will be the Cafe Zola, run by Alan Zakalik and Hediye Batu. They chose the name because it had the sophisticated, international ring they were looking for; because the Z picked up on Zakalik's name; and because Emile Zola was writing around the time when the building was put up. They hope to open sometime in January.

—Grace Shackman, with research assistance by Susan Wineberg

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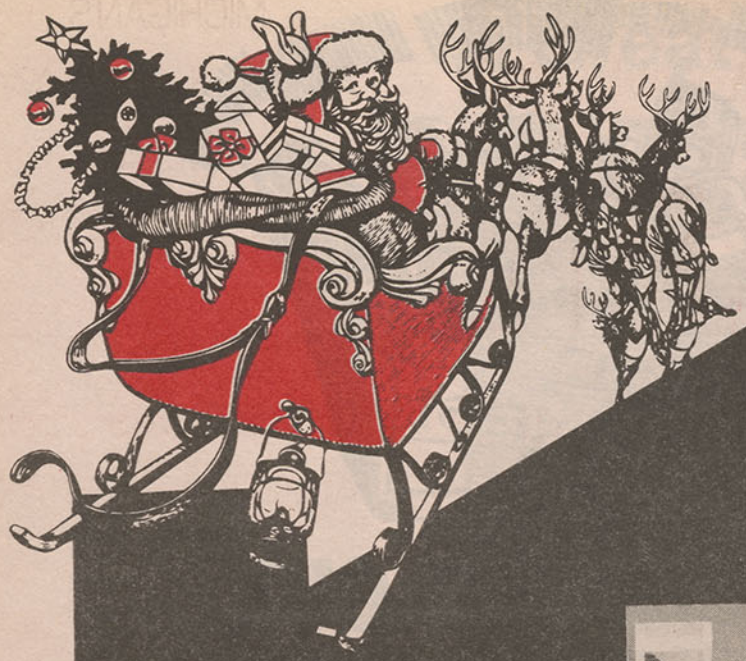

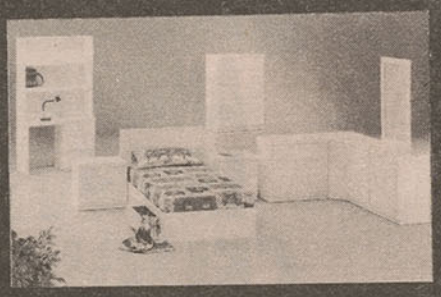

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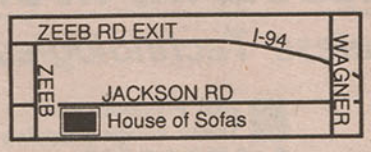

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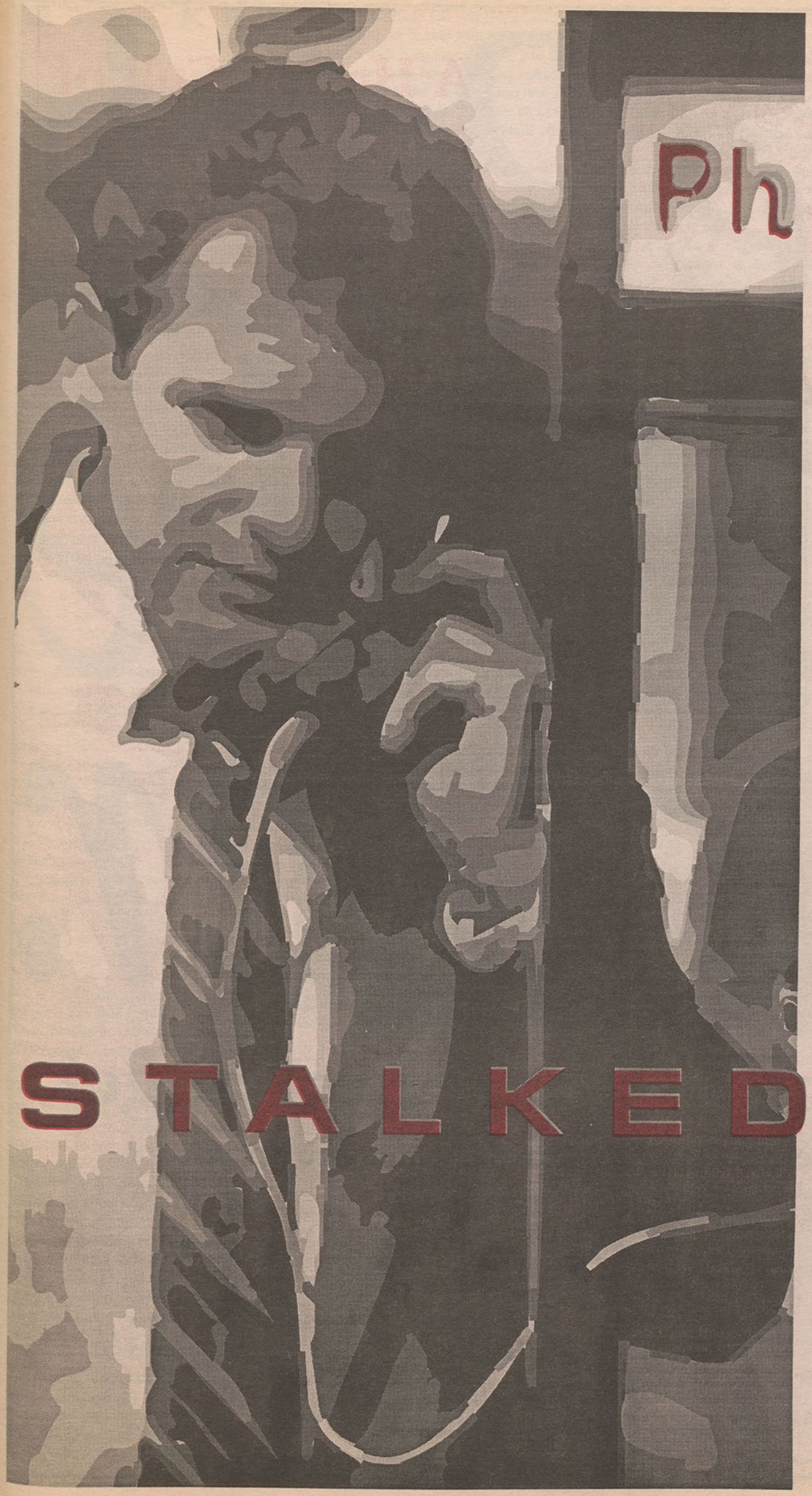

MICHIGAN'S ANTI-STALKING LAWS ARE AMONG THE TOUGHEST IN THE NATION.

BUT FOR THE VICTIMS, THE ELEMENT OF TERROR REMAINS A CONSTANT.

BY EVE SILBERMAN

One afternoon in October, Dr. "Beth Newman" was with a patient when one of her nurses knocked at the door. "They've left," she said tensely. Excusing herself, Newman followed the nurse to a small room where a police officer sat listening to a radio. Newman could hear the squeal of tires as four police cars pursued the car of the man who had tenaciously stalked her for a year and a half. She had met him only once, but he had made hundreds of phone calls to her home and office. He had written dozens of letters and sent her cheap jewelry. Someone—she assumed it was him—was also sending her pornographic catalogs. He had succeeded in frightening her so thoroughly that for several months, the confident, social physician had spent evenings confined to home, terrified that he might be lurking outside.

Newman is one of three Ann Arbor women* who recently told their stories of living in a stalker's shadow. There's no way of telling how many other local people have experienced this insidious harassment, but in September alone, some thirty people took out anti-stalking restraining orders, called "personal protection orders," from the circuit court. In the past three years, the county prosecutor's office has charged 113 people with violating the state's anti-stalking ordinance; twenty-nine of those were from Ann Arbor.

Webster's defines stalk as "to go through an area in search of prey." The Michigan Legislature, when it passed its first anti-stalking legislation three years ago, defined stalking as a "willful course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, harassed or molested."

"Stalking is a crime with a number of components," says Melita Schaum, a U-M–Dearborn professor of English and women's studies who recently co-authored *Stalked.* "Harassing or following has to happen on more than one occasion. There has to be an element of threat involved."

It's not unheard of for women to stalk men. One local attorney helped a man get a restraining order against a woman who kept pursuing him on AATA buses. But the majority of cases involve men stalking women.

*Names of the three women and their stalkers and some identifying details have been changed at the request of the women.

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STALKED

"I don't think there's one formula," says Schaum. "There are so many 'typical' types of stalkers, from the mentally ill to the frustrated teenage boyfriend. . . . Stalking can happen between a customer and a salesperson; it can be sparked between a client and a therapist."

Stalkers practice psychological intimidation. They are sometimes also physically abusive and, in the most frightening scenario, murderous. The experts have varying theories about stalkers' motivation. "Some psychologists believe that stalking is a throwback to the instinctive predatory behavior of prehistoric man," writes Jane McAllister, president of a national anti-stalking group, who is quoted in *Stalked*. "Others explain it as a form of psychiatric illness. Still others describe it as the action of an emotionally and spiritually bankrupt person. Whatever theory you choose to accept, one thing is certain. It is devastating to the victim."

While stalking may have its origins in human prehistory, only in the past few years has it been treated as a crime. California passed the nation's first anti-stalking law in 1990, prompted in part by the murder of actress Rebecca Schaeffer by an obsessed fan.

Some stalkings, like Schaeffer's, are freakish. Victims just happen to be the target of a troubled stranger's obsession. But most stalkings involve "spouses, ex-spouses, or former significant others," says Schaum.

Schaeffer's death helped draw legislative attention to a far more common if less sensational tragedy: victims of domestic violence who are murdered after being stalked and terrorized by someone they knew. By making the stalking itself a crime, California for the first time gave police a tool that permitted them to intervene. Michigan and virtually every other state quickly followed suit. Michigan's law is "one of the best in the nation," says Schaum. It makes stalking a misdemeanor and aggravated stalking (which includes threats of physical injury or repeated offenses) a felony. It bars a wide range of harassing conduct: unwanted telephone calls or E-mail, dropping by someone's workplace, even sending gifts, can all be considered stalking.

But while the law gives stalking victims some legal recourse, its protection is far from complete—as Ann Arbor learned last spring when twenty-nine-year-old resident Sandi Anderson was murdered by James Klepinger Jr. shortly after she broke off a dating relationship with him. Klepinger had been arrested several months earlier on a stalking-related charge filed by another woman. He spent a month in jail before pleading guilty to two misdemeanors; he was then released on probation.

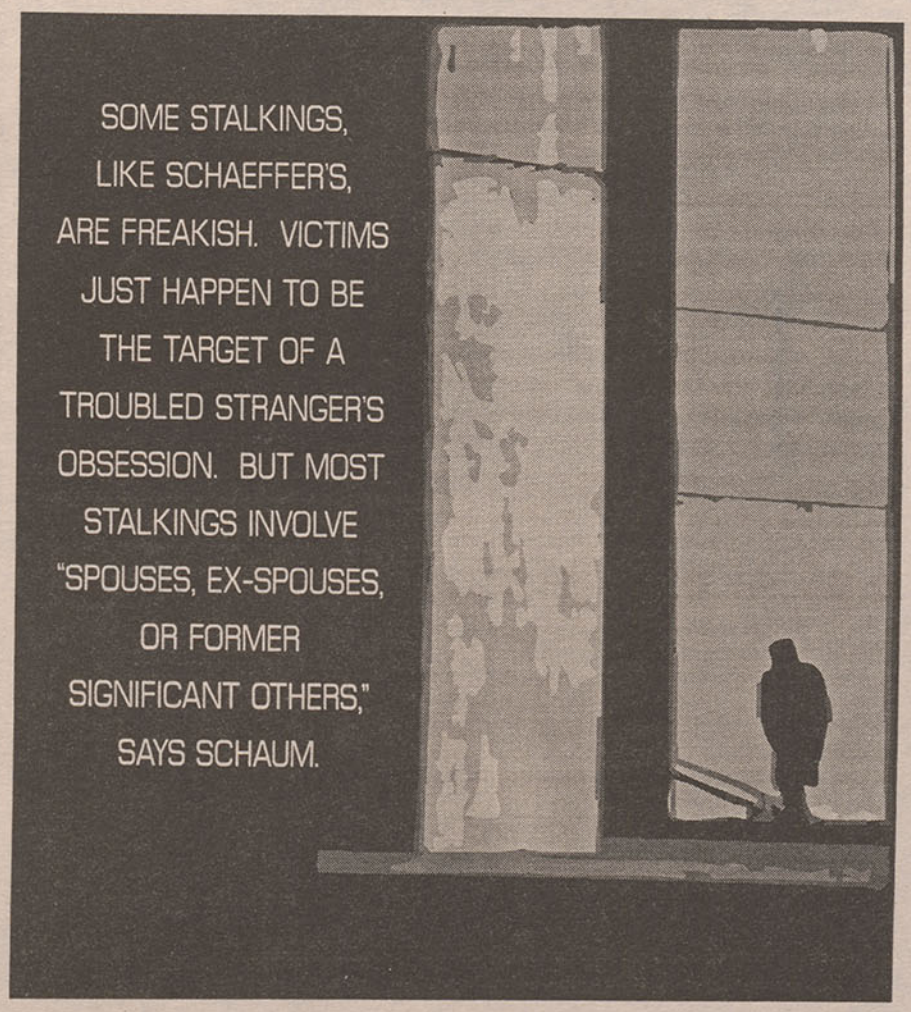
Sandi Anderson felt threatened enough that she had her brother with her when she broke up with Klepinger, and she had the locks on her town house changed immediately afterward. But she never had time to pursue legal protection: Klepinger broke in through a basement window and killed her two days later.

Stalkers who have been romantically involved with their victims are "the most potentially deadly," says Melita Schaum. She adds, "I don't think by saying that that I can downplay the potential danger of any other type of stalker."

And whether or not the woman knows her stalker, the element of terror is a constant.

"Batterers don't give up"

Ten years ago, "Mary Jackson" was kidnapped and held prisoner for a day by the abusive husband she had tried to leave.


SOME STALKINGS, LIKE SCHAEFFER'S, ARE FREAKISH. VICTIMS JUST HAPPEN TO BE THE TARGET OF A TROUBLED STRANGER'S OBSESSION. BUT MOST STALKINGS INVOLVE "SPOUSES, EX-SPOUSES, OR FORMER SIGNIFICANT OTHERS," SAYS SCHAUM.

Two weeks after the incident, she became a volunteer at the SAFE House domestic violence shelter. Today, she works there as a counselor.

Like the rest of the SAFE House staff, Jackson was familiar with stalking long before it became a public issue. "Stalking has been an integral part of domestic violence before the word was invented," says executive director Sue McGee. "Batterers don't give up. They trail their victims and are obsessive."

But until three years ago, McGee and her staff could offer little in the way of either advice or comfort to women who had left an abusive relationship only to be stalked by their batterers. "He sits outside my door," a frantic woman would tell them. "He calls repeatedly. The police say there's nothing they can do until he hits me."

Today, there is more the police can do, thanks to the state's anti-stalking law. SAFE House associate director Kathy Haganian helped draft the legislation. McGee says that the law has had "a major deterrent effect. We used to hear men say, 'What do you mean, I can't beat my wife?' Now we hear men say, 'What do you mean, I can't sit in front of her place?' "

Mary Jackson could have used the backing of the law years before it was passed. And even now, it's not enough to make her feel safe.

Sipping coffee at Big Boy recently, Jackson, forty-eight, a medium-sized woman with short hair and a ready smile, tells her tale with the clarity of someone who can never forget.

She lived on and off with "Joe" for ten years and was married to him for four. Like many men who abuse women, he presented a smooth outward veneer. "He seemed very charming," Jackson says, recalling their courtship. "He brought me flowers. He was a very good manipulator."

Jackson began to see what lay beneath the veneer the day she moved in with him. She went out for coffee with a girlfriend. When she came back, she found him incensed that she had left.

"We started arguing. I went into my bedroom and I started unpacking. He came in, pushed me down, and he started hitting my legs with his fists. He slapped me in the face so hard it knocked the pierced earrings out of my ears." After the incident, following a pattern common among abusers, Joe apologized profusely. "I'm sorry," he said. "I don't know what came over me."

But his violence soon became the backdrop of their relationship. Like many women in similar relationships, Jackson began to believe what her abuser was telling her: that she was provoking him, that the abuse was her fault. On several occasions over the years, she rebelled and left him. Finally, after a particularly brutal assault, she decided to file for divorce.

Shortly afterward, Jackson was kidnapped. Following her to Arborland, her husband grabbed her from behind, brandished a gun, and dragged her to his car. He drove her to a house in Detroit, from where she managed to call her son and tell him where she was. A Detroit police SWAT team broke in and rescued her. Joe was sentenced to jail for five to twenty-five years.

"I felt safer than I had for years," Jackson says. Ideally, her ex-husband's imprisonment would have ended the story. But he served less than five years of his sentence. Two weeks after his release, Jackson looked out the window of her apartment to see him driving very slowly back and forth in front of her house. She moved again, and again he found her. One day, she discovered that her tires had been slashed. Another time, she heard footsteps at night and saw a shadow outside her window. While she was unable to identify the person before he left, she was sure it was her ex-husband.

Finally, Joe moved to another state. But Jackson's sense of relief was short-lived. He had a way of flying in unexpectedly. Once, when Jackson was heading from her apartment to her car, he pulled up and said, "I just wanted to let you know I was around, bitch."

Another time she heard from Ann Arbor police—who, along with the sheriff's department and the California police, monitor the situation—that her stalker had been heard to make death threats against her. Once again, she moved.

"We're still trying to get him on stalking," says Jackson. "It's a matter of time. But he's very slick. He knows what the limits are, and he doesn't cross the limits." He has not called nor come to her door. Driving by her house on a public street is harder to define as harassment.

Mary Jackson has not seen her former husband for several months. Happily remarried, she goes on with her life, but the fear remains. On the advice of the police, she sometimes carries a gun. Asked what would make her feel safe, she replies, "The only way I'd feel safe . . . is if he was dead, and that's an awful thing to say."

"We're not friends, dude!"

For about two years, "Neil Fry" was notorious in downtown restaurants. He pursued waitresses at the Del Rio, the Fleetwood, Ashley's, and the Bird of Paradise, so aggressively that each place kicked him out. He was banned from the Michigan Union after he crashed a fraternity party, but not before he had copied women's telephone numbers from the U-M Ride Board there.

One of the numbers he copied belonged to "Jill Casey," who was then working as a waitress at Ashley's.

Casey, twenty-four, wears her hair punk style. She talks fast, and she has a lot to say about the two months that Fry played out his one-sided fantasy about her.

Fry "never said anything threatening," she says. "That was the creepiest thing

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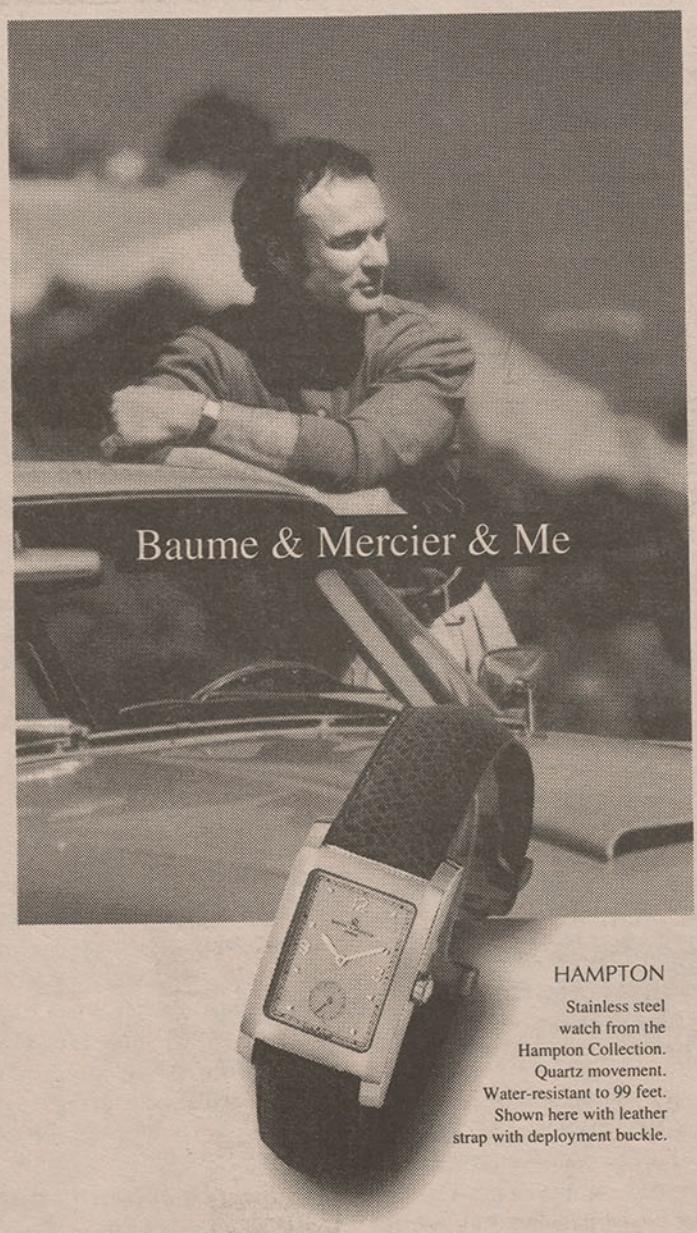

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STALKED

about it. He never said, 'I'm going to hurt you' or anything. But he got so into my life, even, like, to the point that I flipped out a couple of times."

After Casey posted her request for a ride to California, Fry called and suggested they meet and talk about it. "I went up there. He's this middle-aged guy; he looks like an old Ann Arbor hippie type. We discovered we knew some people." (Later, she discovered that one of the women they knew in common had also been stalked by him.)

The next day, Fry called her three times to ask her to a play. She turned him down. He called her several times a day over the next few days to ask her out. Uneasy, Casey declined all invitations. She finally told him she wasn't going to California after all.

Fry persisted. "I was waitressing at Ashley's," Casey recalls. "He started coming in Tuesday night and sitting in my section. I'm like, 'Can you please stop coming here?' He says, 'I don't see what the problem is. We're friends, we're friends.' "

Stalkers seldom see what the problem is. Many stalkers, says Melita Schaum, have "no sense of boundaries, of what someone would consider inappropriate." That's one reason stalking laws are written in terms of the fear prompted by the action rather than the intent of the stalker. Many stalkers don't believe they've done anything wrong, and they frequently have delusions that their attentions are welcome.

By itself, any single contact may seem harmless. "Although virtually every stalking victim can identify with precision the moment he or she became aware that unwanted attentions had crossed the line from mere annoyance to a dangerous intrusion, often those around the victim—family, friends, co-workers, law enforcement officials—have trouble seeing the problem for what it is," Schaum and her co-author, Karen Parrish, write.

Neil Fry insisted he'd found a friend, but Jill Casey felt increasingly threatened. As he continued to follow her, she recalls, she grew "more and more freaked out." Ashley's manager ultimately banned Fry from the restaurant. But then Fry started calling and visiting Casey at home, ingratiating himself with her mother. "He'd, like, step inside the door. I can't physically throw him out. He'd go on and talk, like, what good friends we are. I'm like, 'We're not friends, dude!' "

One day, she totally lost it. "Get out of my life!" she screamed at him. "You're making my life hell!"

Fry appeared baffled. "Can't we talk about it?" he asked.

Casey left town, taking that vacation in California. (Scared away from the Ride Board, she went Greyhound.) When she came back, she did everything she could to get rid of Fry forever. She moved, got an unlisted phone number, and filed a report with the police. She found that several other people had filed complaints about him.

"I would have done something faster," Casey recalls now, "if I had known about [the anti-stalking law]. I thought if I went to the police, they would think I was overreacting."

Whether coincidentally or not, Fry disappeared from her life after she filed the report. A few months later, another waitress who had been stalked by Fry took him to court on harassment charges. As a result of that charge, and others, he ultimately spent ninety days in the Center for Forensic Psychiatry. In a letter he wrote to the judge, Fry complained he was the victim of "harassment" and "false complaints."

Currently on probation, he seems to have faded from the downtown scene. He is well remembered, however, both by his former victims and by several police officers, one of whom observed, "This is one weird dude."

WHILE THE LAW GIVES STALKING VICTIMS SOME LEGAL RECOURSE, ITS PROTECTION IS FAR FROM COMPLETE—AS ANN ARBOR LEARNED LAST SPRING WHEN TWENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD RESIDENT SANDI ANDERSON WAS MURDERED BY JAMES KLEPINGER JR. SHORTLY AFTER SHE BROKE OFF A DATING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

KLEPINGER HAD BEEN ARRESTED SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER ON A STALKING-RELATED CHARGE FILED BY ANOTHER WOMAN.

"I'm gonna get that guy"

Beth Newman's ordeal began in the spring of 1994 when a middle-aged man, "Harry Zachary," brought his teenage son in to be treated for a minor ailment. The visit was brief and unmemorable, at least for Newman. The father and son never came back to her office.

A year later, Newman started receiving anonymous phone calls from a man. Night after night, he called her at home. "Let's go out," the caller would say. "I want to get to know you." He wouldn't identify himself, and he wouldn't accept her refusals or her requests not to call again. Increasingly nervous, Newman switched to an unlisted number.

Then her stalker began calling her at work. She also began receiving letters and "gifts" of cheap jewelry at her office. The letters contained no threats or obscenities; they could even be described as friendly.

"You really sound like one great gal," one said. Another one said, "The bottom line is I think we could be friends."

Newman suspected that the caller and letter writer was also the source of the pornographic magazines and catalogs that began to arrive unsolicited at her office. Although she directed her staff to tell him she wouldn't talk to him, he called every day. "Is she going out with anyone?" he would ask her employees. Sometimes they would answer the phone only to have the caller immediately hang up.

"One day he called so much we could barely speak to patients," Newman recalls. She felt sufficiently frightened to call the police and ask them to escort her and her staff to their cars that evening.

Encouraged by the police, who wanted to set a trap, Newman began to take calls from the stalker. But he refused to set up a meeting, once telling her he was afraid she would pull a "stun gun" on him. Then a break came. The doctor, briefly turned detective, had had caller ID installed on her phone system. One day, she recognized the caller's number—it was a gas station pay phone that he had used before. She hung up and immediately called the station, and a sympathetic attendant got the car's license plate number just as the caller was driving off. The police traced the number, and it was then, finally, that Newman recalled the nondescript father of the boy.

When questioned, Harry Zachary denied knowing anything about the calls. He was fingerprinted and released. The county prosecutor's office told Newman they needed more evidence to prosecute, news that understandably upset her. "They were waiting for something like his walking in the door and saying, 'I've been your stalker for the past eighteen months,' " she fumed recently.

After Zachary was questioned, the stalker's phone calls decreased from once a day to once a week, usually Wednesday afternoons. After a year and a half, Newman was less frightened than she had been when the calls started. "As weird as it sounds," she says, "you do get used to it." It helped, she says, that the police were sympathetic. One day, an officer riffed through the latest pornographic catalog, slammed it on the desk, and barked, "I've had enough. I'm gonna get that guy."

And they did. On a Wednesday afternoon in October, the police followed Zachary from his home and waited until he went to a pay phone, dialed Newman's office, then hung up when her receptionist answered. The police made the arrest. That evening, Beth Newman and several of her friends went out to a restaurant to celebrate.

The prosecutor's office is currently preparing a case on a misdemeanor stalking charge. Harry Zachary has no previous court record. If he is convicted, the maximum sentence he will face is up to a year in prison. What will probably happen, Newman believes, is that he will be put on probation.

The calls have stopped since Zachary's arrest. But Newman doesn't think she's heard the last from him. "The next time," she says in a determined voice, "we'll get him on a felony." ■

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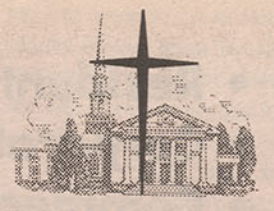

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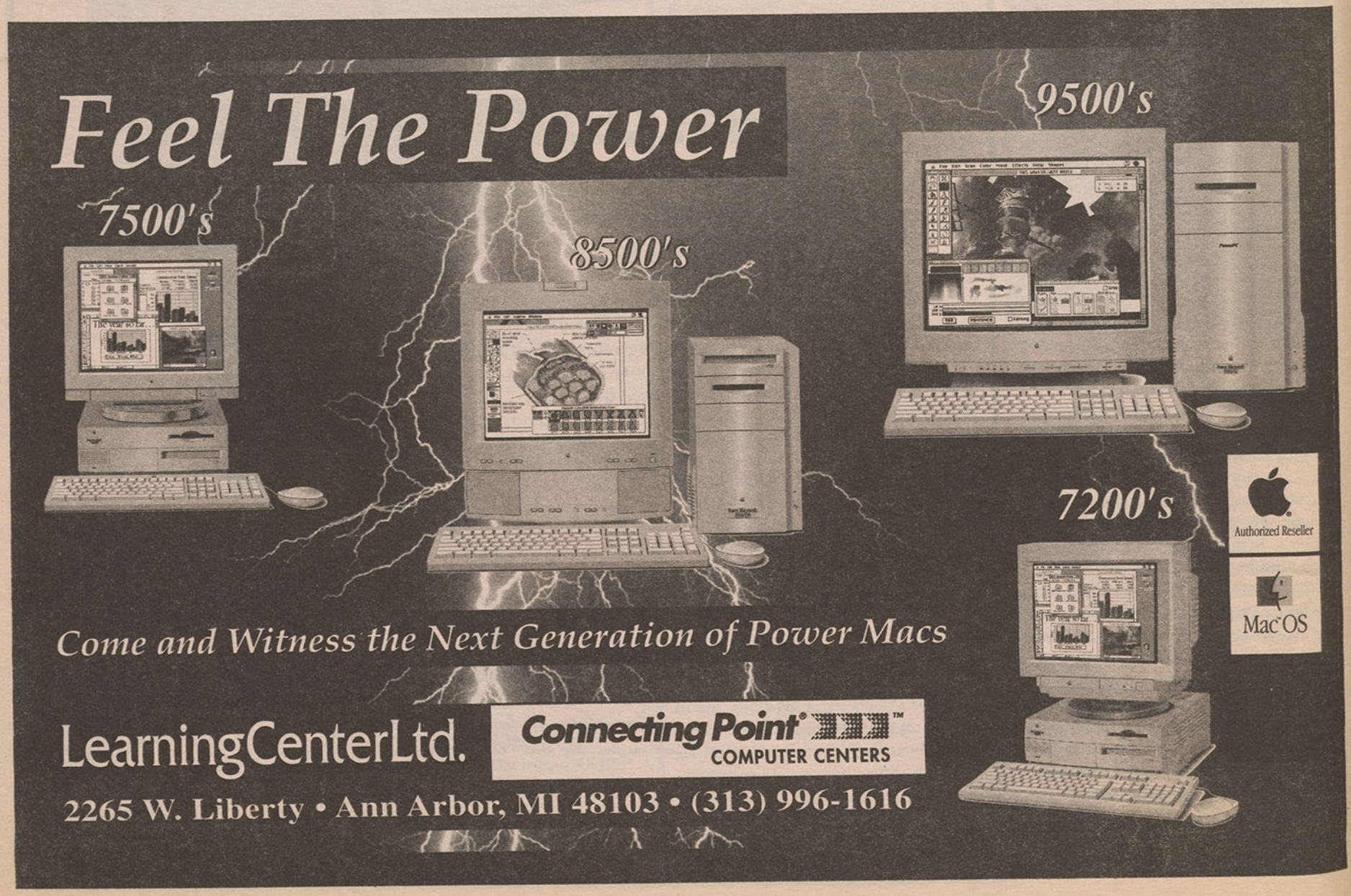


Looking for a Leader

by Steve Rubin

Steve Fisher's low-key style and "let 'em play" philosophy have made him college basketball's best recruiter. Can he mold the Wolverines' incredible talent into a championship team?

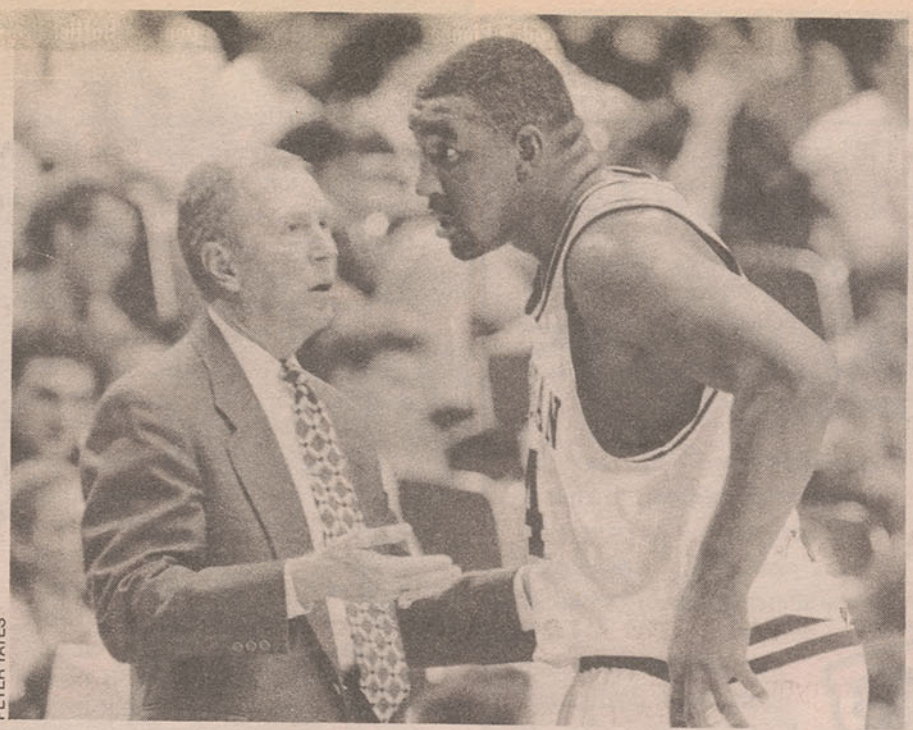
Last March, a glorious era in Michigan basketball history came to a sudden and disappointing end. In a first round NCAA tournament match against Western Kentucky, the Wolverines built a substantial lead behind the combined play of seniors Jimmy King and Ray Jackson, only to falter down the stretch. Michigan lost the lead in the closing moments of regulation and the game in overtime.

As freshmen, the Fab Five—King, Jackson, Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, and Juwan Howard—had boasted that they'd win four national championships. But Webber moved on to the NBA after his sophomore year, and Howard and Rose left as juniors. With their first-round exit from the Big Dance, the remaining Fabbers saw their last chance at the national title vanish.

Head coach Steve Fisher, whose birthday falls on March 24, had grown accustomed to celebrating on the road. In this case, being home for his birthday did not make it a happy one: "I was obviously bitterly disappointed that we lost in the first round of the tournament, given that we played better than they did," Fisher says. "It was a game we should have won, we thought we had won, but didn't win. . . . In ways, the game was indicative of our entire season: when we needed one or two guys to stand out—not to just make a play or a basket, but to step up and make an important play to win a game—it didn't happen."

The Fab Five only narrowly missed delivering the NCAA championships they promised. In both 1992 and 1993, they made it to the championship game, losing the second time only on Chris Webber's last-minute time-out error. In 1994, the Wolverines reached the Round of Eight before losing to eventual champion Arkansas. But the Fab Two's last season was far from fabulous. The team played poorly in preconference games (6 wins, 6 losses), showed signs of life in the Big Ten (11–7), but after the loss to Western Kentucky finished with an unimpressive 17–14 overall.

With Webber, Rose, and Howard all playing in the NBA, last year was supposed to be King's and Jackson's turn in the limelight. Jackson had a solid year, leading the team in points, rebounds, and assists, but King did not have the breakout season many expected of him. Both are quiet southern kids who had grown accustomed to their supporting roles in the three previous seasons, and neither was able to assume the leadership the team so sorely needed. And to a Steve Fisher team, leadership from the players is vital.



PETER YATES

Head coach Steve Fisher talks with freshman Robert Traylor. Fisher's an effective teacher rather than a dominant leader—qualities that have helped him land the nation's top recruiting class in three of the past five years. The downside: his teams are unusually dependent on leadership emerging from among the players themselves.

The teacher-coach

Beginning in 1991, when Fisher and his assistants landed the Fab Five, Michigan has captured the best young talent in the country for three of the past five seasons. Yet in that time they haven't won so much as a Big Ten title. The obvious question is, why?

Let's start with Steve Fisher. He's not a sergeant like Indiana's Bobby Knight. His homespun, let 'em play, low-key coaching philosophy makes him an effective teacher, but he's not a dominant team leader. Top players appreciate that—it's probably why Fisher, not Knight, landed those outstanding freshman classes. And his patient and unassuming style worked wonders when the guys on the court possessed a combination of extraordinary talent and bold spirit. But last year demonstrated what can happen when no strong leader emerges from the ranks.

Leadership will be a key to the team's prospects again this year. Given Fisher's brand of coaching, he himself won't assume the key leadership position, nor will he dictate who steps into it. "It's hard to say to any one player, 'You're the leader,' " he says. "Usually someone grabs it or it gravitates to someone, *a la* Jalen. Jalen was the leader of our team for three years, even though Chris was the most high-profile [of the Fab Five]. Everyone looked to Jalen to see how he would act and react."

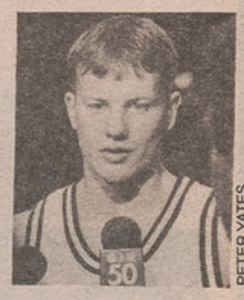
The attempt to find a successor to Rose last year was complicated by history and seniority: though Michigan had the most highly touted freshman class of 1994, the younger players were encouraged to defer to King and Jackson. While Fisher concedes now that the freshmen may have "deferred too much to Jimmy and Ray," he also notes that those freshmen "did not have as strong personalities as the Fab Five had." With the last of the Fab Five gone, Fisher is hopeful that the team will be able to find the leadership and identity it needs this year.

Obviously Fisher has picked kids with enormous talent. But this season—perhaps more than any other since he took over the team from Bill Frieder in 1989—will show whether he's capable of finding talented players who can also lead their teammates to victory.

Returning veterans

In this transitional season, senior **Dugan Fife** represents a link between the generations. A point guard who joined the starters two years ago when Chris Webber left for the NBA, Fife is this year's captain. (He follows in the footsteps of his father, Dan, who captained Michigan's 1971 team.)

Like his predecessors King and Jackson, Fife struggled last season, including in his emerging leadership role. Shy, quiet, and unassuming, Fife has not changed a great deal since he entered as a nervous freshman. "Dugan is a leader by example," says Fisher. "He is a quiet kind of leader, and he doesn't say enough. Hopefully he will lead more from a loud, rah-rah standpoint this season. He needs to be more assertive verbally and tell people what to do. If he doesn't, hopefully someone will step up. Who that guy is I don't know."



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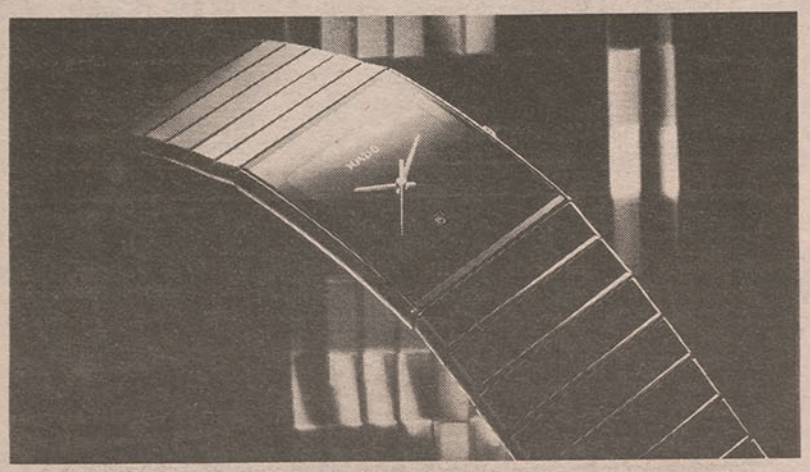

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Basketball *continued*

The most likely candidate is last season's Big Ten Freshman of the Year, **Maurice "Mo" Taylor.** Averaging 12.5 points, 5 rebounds, and a blocked shot per game, Taylor was not just the most valuable freshman last year; he was probably the team's most outstanding player. Fisher pointed to his 6' 9" power forward after last season's finale and said, "Maurice is the heart and soul of Michigan basketball in the future."

As a freshman at Detroit Henry Ford High School, Taylor was the quarterback of the football team and did not even play for the basketball team. But, Taylor recalls, "I went from being six-two as a freshman to six-seven and a half as a sophomore, and people thought I outgrew the [quarterback] position. So I finally went into the gym to play basketball. And you know what? I haven't been able to put the ball down since."

Despite coming to the game relatively late, Taylor clearly has basketball in his blood. His Aunt Sabrina, who has reared her nephew since he was eleven, was excited when he switched sports: "Maurice's mother, Cathy, and I played basketball together at Detroit Finney High," she explains. "I was forward and she was center—just like Maurice and Maceo [Baston] are now." Maurice's grandmother, Ellen Lloyd, also played basketball, at the same position as her grandson.

Taylor has no intention of resting on his freshman laurels. "I have to improve," says the smiling and handsome sophomore. "Freshman year can lead to the promised land or it can lead to disaster. You've heard of the sophomore jinx?" he asks, rolling his eyes.

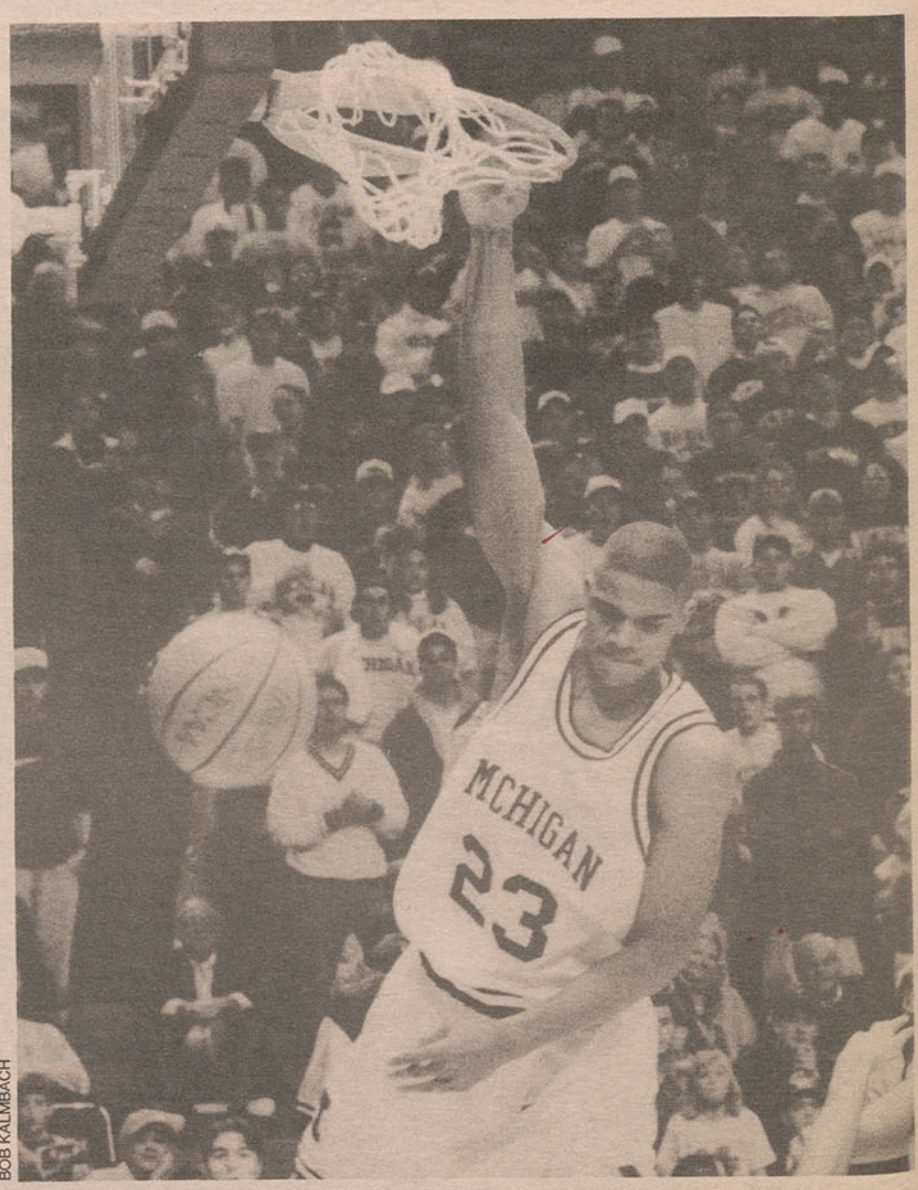
"I want the ball at the end of games when things are on the line. I want my teammates to look for me."

After Taylor, **Maceo Baston** was the most impressive of last year's freshman class. Baston averaged 7.7 points and 5.5 rebounds and could easily double those figures with more playing time this season.

Despite his slenderness (he is 6' 9" but only 210 pounds) Baston's incredibly long arms give him the ability to control a large area in the paint. He has a wingspan the equivalent of someone 7' 3", and this has enabled him to develop into a tremendous rebounder and shot blocker. "Maceo uses those long arms to get balls you don't think he can get," Fisher explains. "If he puts on twenty pounds of muscle, he could really skyrocket as a player."

While he plays much taller than he is, Baston has the quickness and agility to go around bigger opponents. This has turned him into an especially effective offensive rebounder. If he plays thirty minutes a game, Baston will easily average double figures in rebounds and will lead the team, and possibly the Big Ten, in this category.

A likable, friendly, and engaging young

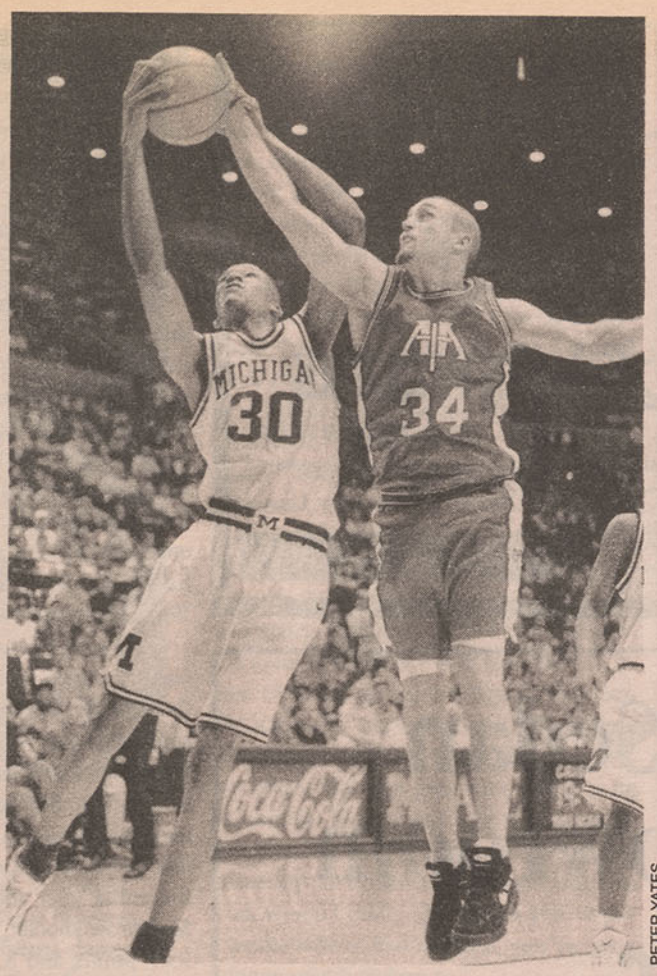


BOB KALMBACH

Steve Fisher has called sophomore Maurice Taylor "the heart and soul of Michigan basketball in the future." Taylor—whose mother and grandmother both played serious high school ball—won Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors last year.

man, Baston enters his sophomore season with eagerness and confidence. When I asked him who was the best rebounder in the Big Ten, he answered, without hesitation, "Maceo Baston." When pushed further and asked who was the better rebounder, Dennis Rodman (the NBA's best) or Maceo Baston, he responded, tongue-in-cheek, with the same answer.

Of last year's freshmen, **Jerod Ward** arrived on campus with the biggest reputation—and was the biggest disappointment. Ward had won the Naismith Award as national high school Player of the Year and was expected to have an immediate impact with the Wolverines. Instead, he endured a difficult first year, averaging only 6 points and 3 rebounds per game. He was also slowed by injury, missing nine games in midseason after tearing cartilage in his right knee.



PETER YATES

Maceo Baston's incredibly long arms have helped make him a tremendous shot blocker and rebounder.

In his senior season in high school, Ward was considered the best perimeter player in the country. However, because of his height (6' 9") and Michigan's lack of depth on the inside last year, Ward was asked to leave his natural position to play under the basket. He did not relish his new role, and rumors about his supposed unhappiness at Michigan and possible transfer added to his first-year woes.

Both player and coach deny rumors of transfer, but both concede that Ward found his new position difficult and uncomfortable. So Ward is pleased with Fisher's decision to play him on the perimeter this season—either at shooting guard or small forward. He explains, "Throughout the course of my growing up I always played primarily on the perimeter. Last year I came and played primarily on the inside. It was really different, and it was an adjustment. It felt odd. I expect to have more opportunity this season to be able to feel the basketball a little bit better than I did last year and to find my offensive rhythm." With less pressure and a return to his natural position, look for Ward to have a breakout season and to lead the Wolverines in scoring.

The other highly touted member of last season's freshman class who had a disappointing season was 6' 8" swingman **Willie Mitchell.** In his last year of high school, Mitchell was voted Michigan's Mister Basketball and was selected for several All-American teams. But last season his play was inconsistent, he saw limited action, and he was a nonfactor in most games.

Mitchell quickly acknowledges a disappointing freshman year. "I was down last year. Me and Jerod, we had to sit and play behind two potential NBA first-round picks, Jimmy and Ray. . . . Last year I wasn't in great shape. I got away with it in high school by being so much better than everyone else."

After the season and before school let out for the summer, Mitchell talked with Fisher about various facets of his game that needed work. "Coach told me I had to get into better shape, work on my ball handling and shooting, and especially my attitude . . . including my maturity, decision making, and intensity," he recalls. Mitchell is hoping that he has improved enough to land one of the starting positions vacated by the departures of King and Jackson. At the beginning of practice in mid-October, Fisher declared Mitchell "my most improved player."

Travis Conlan, the least heralded of last year's Fresh Five, delivered a solid first season. At 6' 5", Conlan is a tall point guard with good court sense who became the team's best ball handler and passer. Unlike Fife, he demonstrated an ability to push the ball up the court and to penetrate offensively, creating scoring opportunities for his teammates as well as himself. Fisher was quite impressed. "Travis made a lot of noise last year, running the ball club and getting the ball to the right people at the right time." Conlan told me that he expects to become one of the leaders of this year's team. "I love to have the ball, to be the quarterback, to pass, and to make the team look good. That's my personality. I like to be the leader on the court—talking and getting the other guys going. I'll have no trouble stepping up and taking a leadership role." To get on the floor and con-

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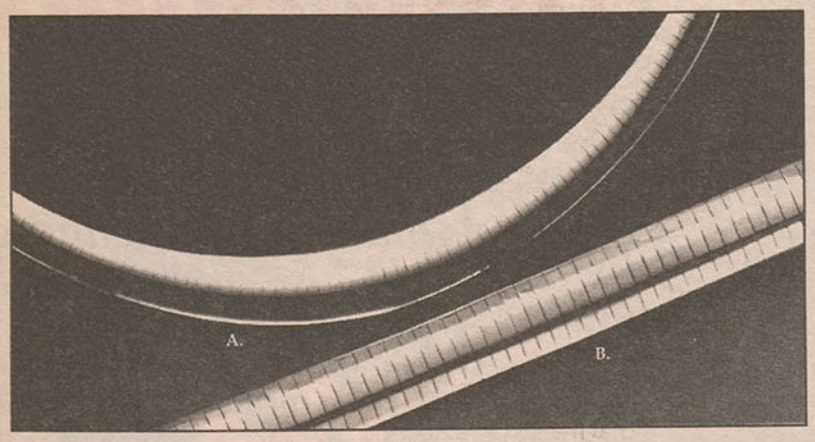

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tribute, though, he needs to improve his outside shooting and his free throw percentage.

Ambitious freshmen

This year's freshman class includes three consensus high school All-Americans, all of whom were ranked consistently among this year's top fifteen incoming freshmen. The most important to Michigan, though, may be the one who excited the least national attention: 6' 2" guard **Louis Bullock,** from Laurel Baptist Academy in Maryland. Bullock is vital because he fills a devastating weakness in the Wolverines' offense.

Last year, Michigan was a terrible shooting team: they were last in the Big Ten in three-point accuracy, hitting only 28 percent. Michigan was also next to last in conference play free throws, averaging less than 65 percent. Bullock should help to solve these problems in a hurry. He shot a spectacular 59 percent from three-point territory in his senior year and was also a 90 percent free-throw shooter. Last season he averaged 25.7 points and 8.4 assists per game and was named Mister Basketball in the Washington, D.C., area. Fisher practically begins to salivate when he describes his prize recruit as "an exceptional shooter."

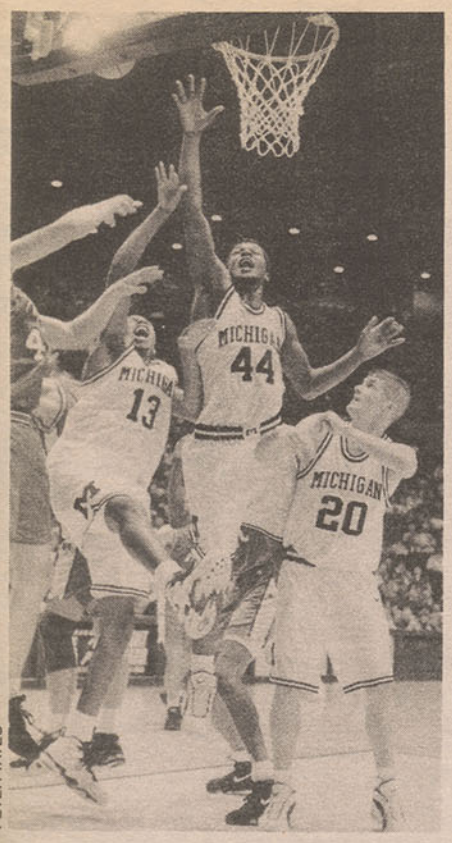
Bullock could pass for a high school junior: at a recent Pistons-Bullets exhibition game at Crisler Arena, he blended into a crowd of teenagers who were seeking autographs from his new teammates. But don't be fooled by his youthful looks and current anonymity. By this time next year he will be one of the favorites of the crowd at Crisler.

Fisher and his staff (assistant coach Scott Perry was the main recruiter for all three All-Americans) have recruited a balanced class. In addition to Bullock, a tremendous shooter, it includes a versatile all-around player and a true center.

Albert White, a 6' 6", 225-pound swingman from Inkster, announced for Michigan way back in October 1994. White is a great athlete who can play inside or outside and score in a variety of ways—in his senior year in high school, he averaged 31 points and almost 16 rebounds per game.

Linda Donald, White's mother, says that he announced early because he couldn't stand the stress of being a high-profile recruit. As she and I sat in Crisler Arena watching White and his teammates play in a pickup game before the official start of practice on October 15, I asked Donald if she had had any words of advice for her son. She replied, "I just told Al to go out there and play fierce. I told him, you're at another level now. You got guys to help you here. In high school it was the Albert White show. Now you don't have to carry the whole load by yourself."

White's mother got teary-eyed as she talked about her son going off to college. "I miss him. I love to hug on him and kiss him and pinch his old, fat jaws. . . . But it's time to let him go, for him to become a man." Her task of letting go will be made



PETER YATES

Sophomore Willie Mitchell, freshman Albert White, and senior Neal Morton. Meshing the talents of different classes will be one key to the team's performance.

easier by her faith in the Michigan coaching staff. She explained, "Scott [Perry] was Al's main recruiter. I really love him to death. I feel Al's in good hands. If anything goes wrong, I'm sure the coaches will let me know and then I'll sit down and talk with Al."

As soon as White announced, he began to work on his good buddy **Robert Traylor** to join him at Michigan. A 6' 9" center from Detroit Murray-Wright, Traylor is a leaper with good quickness, despite his nearly 300-pound frame and size 21 shoe. In the end, Traylor, like White, decided he wanted to stay close to home and play for the program they both loved as kids. Both had attended nearly every home game in Ann Arbor for several years, and they regularly hung out in the locker room after the games.

Traylor explains why he found Steve Fisher an effective recruiter. "Coach Fisher just told me the true facts about the university. He never guaranteed me that I would play or start. He just told me that if I worked hard, I would have the chance to play. I think that's the best way to do it."

Traylor's grandmother, Jessie Mae Carter, who brought him up, was equally if not more impressed. She reports, "Fisher would talk about education, and he would never down another school to get Robert to come there. A lot of coaches came into my house, and a lot of them were downing other schools. When you have to do that, something's wrong."

But in the end, the legacy of the Fab Five may have been the deciding factor for Traylor. "I'd always liked Michigan, but the Fab Five just took the school to the next level and created a lot of excitement," he says. "I'm not sure I would have come here if it wasn't for them."

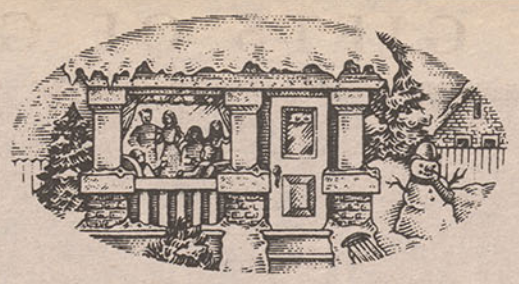
Nicknamed "Tractor Traylor," "Refrigerator," "Space Heater," and "Mini-Shaq," Traylor is definitely a force to be reckoned with in and around the basket. Last year, as Michigan's Mister Basketball, he averaged 22.4 points, 15.8 rebounds, 4 blocked shots, and 2.5 steals per game. Fisher is excited but cautious. "Traylor is good, but he's not Chris Webber. He's not going to come in and take the nation by storm, but he's an excellent player who will get better and wants to get better. He's got great feet, as big as he is, terrific hands, and a fierce competitiveness. He led his team to a state championship as a junior. He finds ways to lead, which I really like. When you've got a leader who is that talented, you've got a winner, which Robert is."

Finding an identity

While all of this year's team were powerfully influenced by the Fab Five, Fisher has spoken to them about gaining their own identity and coming out from the shadow of their famous predecessors. "The legacy of the Fab Five will live forever, but we are closing the door on their physical presence," Fisher says. "I'm excited about this group building their own identity. We're starting a new chapter and a new era, and [the current players] are the ones writing it. We want it to be every bit as successful and exciting as the old one."

"The legacy of the Fab Five will live forever, but we are closing the door to their physical presence," Fisher says. "I'm excited about this group building their own identity. We're starting a new chapter and a new era, and [the current players] are the ones writing it."

When Bullock, White, and Traylor met at the McDonald's All-American game last April, they talked among themselves about winning the Big Ten championship in their first year at Michigan and a national championship down the road. It's a realistic hope. The Wolverines are too inexperienced to be a serious Final Four contender next March, but the Big Ten is expected to have a down year with no dominating teams. If the Wolverines' wealth of young talent meshes with last year's and develops team chemistry; if Taylor steps up and provides the necessary leadership; and if Ward and Baston provide the scoring and rebounding punch, this year's team has the potential to accomplish what the Fab Five never could. ■



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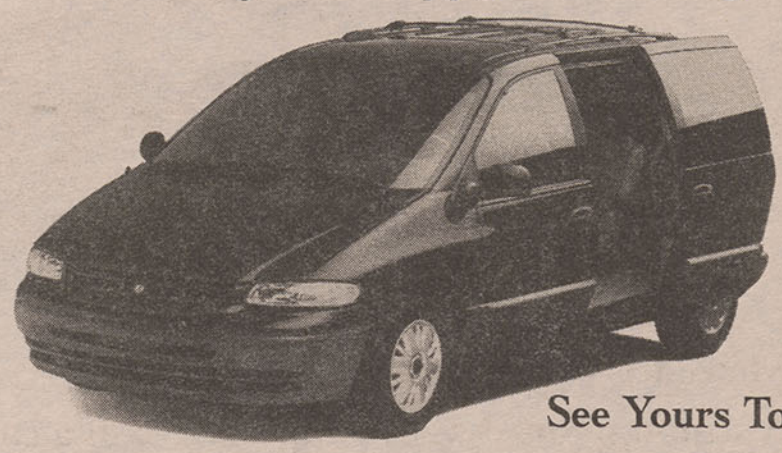

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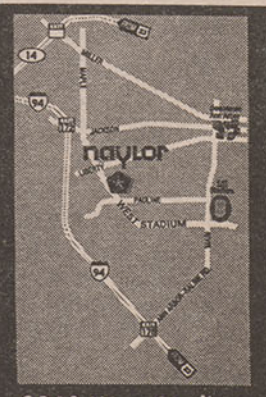

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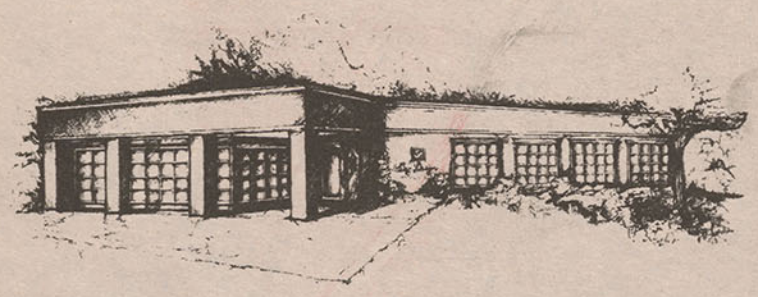

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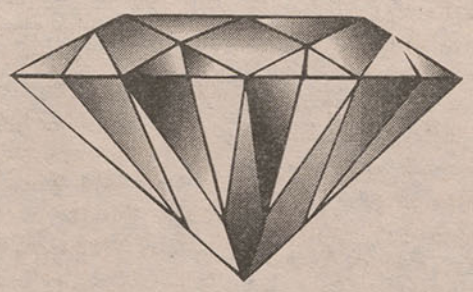

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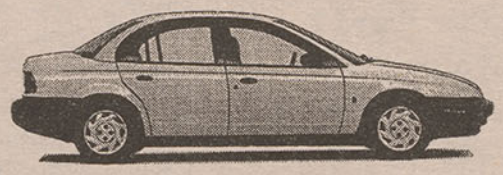

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Shopping For Love

PETER YATES

After a crushing rejection, Cynthia D'Amour created a system to find the perfect husband. Now she's turned it into a career as a coach for the lovelorn.

By Eve Silberman

Eight years ago, Cynthia D'Amour, then Cynthia Miller, found herself dumped. D'Amour was writing out a list of prospective wedding guests when the man she'd passionately loved for four months called her up one night. "I was thinking," D'Amour recalls him saying, "I don't love you anymore."

Devastating as the call was, the final meeting with him was worse. They went out for pizza and he ate almost all of it. Then he drove her to his mother's house and came back to the car with a box containing everything she'd ever given him. He dropped the box in her lap, drove her back to her house, and turned to her and said, "If you don't get out of the car right now, I'm going to throw up all over you. I can't stand the thought of being with you."

D'Amour lost it. Cried a lot. Stayed awake nights, playing back every conversation she'd had with him, asking herself what she had done wrong. Ate a lot. "I gained a ton of weight. I didn't want to be desirable to men.

"The first time I'd been in love," she says. "I was my typical client at that point."

Cynthia D'Amour stands in a meeting room in the Hampton Inn North and gives a pep talk to the class of three single men and five single women, one of whom is me.

"We are love shoppers!" she tells us. "We are not settling—we are choosing! You're not worrying about rejections! You're looking for people who are good enough for you!"

We smile uncertainly. We each paid $25 to attend this seminar, called "How to Get a Date Almost Everywhere You Go." It's run by D'Amour, through her company, "Meet Mr. or Ms. Right." Our ages range from late twenties to early fifties, and we are here to improve our chances of meeting potential love interests. Also here: our teacher's husband, James D'Amour, a tall, lean, fair-haired man dressed in a business suit who attends every one of his wife's dating skills seminars. Quieter than his wife, he's nonetheless welcoming to class members, many of whom enter shyly, heads down. When I ask him if he ever gets bored, he looks surprised and says, "This is fascinating."

D'Amour, thirty-three, started the seminar by asking everyone to report what they had done during the week to meet potential dates.

A guy in his early thirties, who seems to be hiding behind a thatch of dark hair, says that he went to Borders for two hours but couldn't bring himself to start a conversation with someone. "I was too scared," he says plaintively, adding that he did, at least, buy a book. A silver-haired man with a deep voice says he doesn't "feel ready" yet to start talking to women. My contribution: a brief conversation I struck up with a man in the checkout line at Kroger, one of D'Amour's favorite meeting strategies. D'Amour looks pleased with my achievement.

"See," she tells the class, "she talked to someone in a grocery store line, and she didn't die."

"We are love shoppers!" she tells us. "We are not settling—we are choosing! You're not worrying about rejections! You're looking for people who are good enough for you!"

D'Amour then polls us, asking, "How many people have a sufficient number of dates in their lives?" Not one hand is raised. Each of us has a different reason for not dating—too busy with work, always hanging out with a group of friends, can't find people our age. D'Amour listens, then shoots down the reasons like so many ducks lined in a row. If you're not finding people your age, you need to start looking where they are. If you're stuck in a group of friends, you need to be assertive and tell your friends they might not be seeing so much of you in the future. As for being too busy, look at your work patterns.

"When I was single I was working an eighty-hour work week," D'Amour says. "I was scared [to date]. And what was there to go home to?"

The class winds down doing role playing of everyday situations in which you might find yourself meeting someone at the Farmers' Market, at a bookstore, at the post office. The idea of approaching strangers is scary, and not just for the bashful. Several women voice concerns about safety. In her hundreds of dates, D'Amour says, she herself had no bad experiences, but she lists a number of precautions women can take: getting both home and work numbers from men we meet so we know for sure who we're dealing with, and always arranging to meet in public places. To protect our privacy, she adds, it's possible to hire an answering service with a separate phone number, so that we can't be traced to our homes. Above all, she recommends "relying on your gut. If you get into wondering, 'Is he telling the truth?'—he probably isn't," she advises.

We break off in male-female pairs, with a couple of the women playing the parts of men. "Long lines, don't you think?" I begin brightly. My partner agrees, and we bat around little chunks of inane dialogue about the best times to come to the post office and the cost of stamps. But when it comes to asking him out for coffee, my mind goes blank and we stare at each other helplessly. When D'Amour checks in, she says briskly that if all else fails, you can say, "You seem like an interesting person. Would you like to go out and have some coffee?"

As she coaches us, D'Amour often brings in examples from her own life—particularly from the year in which, vowing to meet her husband by the end of it, she met *300* men. "I don't want to be like a married person who says, 'Oh, it's easy,' and you've got a memory lapse because you're so happy being married," she says.

She continues, "I keep finding experiences where I get out of my comfort zone. Like playing my first game of golf. 'Cause it's not right for me to tell people to get out of their comfort zones if I don't work on my life, too."

As D'Amour sips coffee in the downtown ArtCafe, she notes it's "a place where men take their dates to impress them." A large woman, she has attractive features but doesn't try for glamour: her brown hair, once streaked blond, falls to her shoulders

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in the most basic of styles. She wears a red blazer over a funky, brightly patterned long skirt. D'Amour has the pitch-perfect voice of a radio broadcaster (in fact, she has done question and answer shows on dating on both local and Detroit radio). She's direct, clear, and calm as she explains how being cruelly jilted at age twenty-five turned her life in a different direction.

"I went into shock when he dropped me," D'Amour says. "I just totally blanked out." She didn't date for five years after the breakup in 1987.

During the day, she threw herself into her work, teaching social studies at a middle school in suburban Detroit. But at night, she obsessed about what had gone wrong. "I read every relationship book I could get my hands on," she says. "I spent five years groveling around, eating, taking graduate classes [in psychology and education], doing work to find myself. It was scary."

She finally turned the corner during a summer she spent on a Pueblo Indian reservation, part of a cultural exchange program sponsored by Indiana University. "They took me in like family," she says. "They're wonderful people."

That summer helped rebuild her self-confidence. "Weight is a gift out there," she says. "They like heavy women. They take people as they are."

When she returned to Michigan, D'Amour set a goal: she would find a husband within a year. She made a list of the qualities she wanted in a man. It grew to forty-six entries.

She began her search with a personal ad in the *Birmingham Eccentric,* and she went out with seventy of the hundred men who answered the ad.

"At first, I was nervous," she says. "I did not come out of the shower a born-again dater." To help herself deal with rejections or dreadful dates, she taped the word "Next!" to her phone.

But those first few dozen dates helped her gain confidence. "I was just practicing," she says. "The talking, the meeting, the 'Where do you work?', the 'What do you do?' "

After six months, D'Amour was confident enough to start trying to meet men in bookstores and groceries. She grew extremely systematic: she would study the cashiers to see who was the slowest, then pick that line. One man, flattered by her attention, bought her groceries.

"By the time spring was hitting that year, I was really like a man magnet. The confidence kept kicking in. I knew what to say. I got better at listening. I smiled a lot, I laughed a lot. I was fun to be around."

She stopped worrying about her weight. Men, she says, "don't worry if you're not up to society's standards of beauty if you've got that excitement going."

She met the eerily appropriately named James D'Amour at a party at a statewide Jaycees convention eleven months after she'd made her vow. This time, unlike her experience with the First Love of Her Life, she kept her feet on the ground. "When I met James, it was this incredible moment. But I still dated a year and a half, and I had my list there and looked to see if he was honest and he was trustworthy and all the things I was looking for."

In fact, James D'Amour, who works in mortgage banking, satisfied forty-two of her forty-six requirements. (He is six feet rather than her ideal six feet four, one year older than she when she would have preferred four years, is fair instead of dark, and is a U-M grad—a compromise for D'Amour, who calls herself a "diehard Spartan.")

Six months after they met, Cynthia volunteered to teach a session of "Meet Mr. or Ms. Right" for a Jaycees regional meeting. "I did it as sort of a joke, and I had the best-attended sessions there," she says. Soon, she was teaching Mr. or Ms. Right for Jaycee chapters across the state.

In November 1993, she married D'Amour, moved to Ann Arbor, and eventually opened her company. "I always wanted to have my own business, and it was just falling into place." In the two years since, she says, she's seen close to 1,500 single people at weekly seminars in Ann Arbor and Southfield, as well as some private sessions—most for a few local professors who, she says, "don't want it public that they're looking."

In her sessions, D'Amour advocates positive thinking and direct action. Which is not necessarily what everyone is looking for. Even though she makes no claims to matchmaking in her ads, some people come hoping she'll arrange dates for them. "I've been offered a lot of money to fix people up," she says. "But that goes against everything I believe in."

D'Amour is patient and sympathetic with people who have to struggle even to smile at potential dates. "Can you bring yourself just to talk to a woman this week?" she asks one enrollee soothingly. But she also possesses a no-nonsense quality. "These classes work only for people that are ready to take action," she reminds prospective clients.

"I've spoken to some of the singles groups in the area," says D'Amour, "and they do not like me at all because I talk about action. I talk about progress. It's not 'Let's keep whining—there's no one out there,' 'I'm forty-something, there's a lack of men,' or 'I'm divorced, I hate women.' "

D'Amour cuts chronic complainers little slack. "So you're over forty," she says crisply. "You look different places than a twenty-five-year-old. Does a twenty-five-year-old have it easier? I don't think so. It's sort of like HIV does not discriminate—well, neither does the fear or pain of dating."

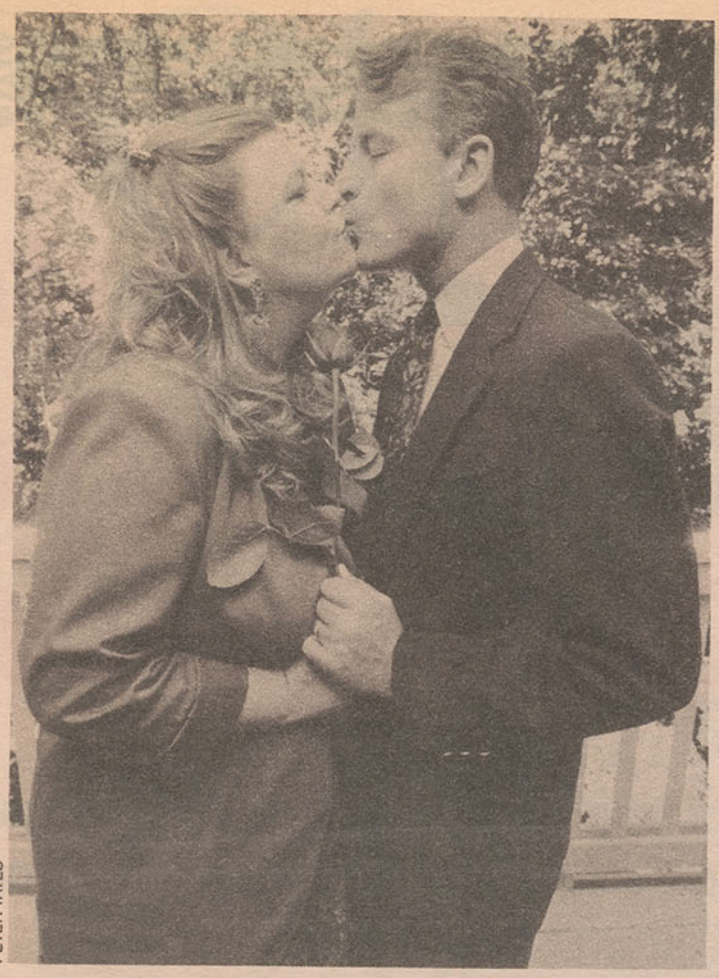
She describes a sales manager for a national company. "He made millions of dollars a year. When it came to women, he's an eighth-grader. He melted; his brain left his body." But after a few weeks of coming to her class, she boasts, he was "standing tall." On the other hand, when she wasn't able to shake one woman's perpetual gloom, she urged her to withdraw from the class. "I am so into progress," she says. "And she was so into this rut of 'Hey, everyone's got baggage.'"

D'Amour herself was raised in a home (in Birmingham, north of Detroit), where her businessman father emphasized traditional manners. "I never ordered for myself when a man was present until I hit college." Today, she says, she pays no heed to sexual stereotypes and criticizes women who, in her view, hide behind tradition. " 'The man should ask, the man should pay,' " she says, quoting their complaints. "You know, we've got to stop being products on a shelf!"

Is there anything different about dating in Ann Arbor from dating in the Detroit suburbs? Not much, says D'Amour. "People outside of Ann Arbor see Ann Arbor as this mecca for singles. But people in Ann Arbor don't always know where to go. A lot of people here are very educated. But our education system doesn't promote people skills, the small talk, the getting-a-date stuff."

However, D'Amour cautions that single Ann Arborites need to master the art of the kindly rejection. "The thing is, Ann Arbor being a big small town, you've got to be really good in ending those relationships. I had one client, he just dumped women—when he broke off, he just wouldn't call. And he's got about four women and their girlfriends who, when they see him downtown, they, like, hit on him with their purses and stuff.

"In Oakland County, you can hide a little bit more. In Ann Arbor, you can't just dump and burn."



PETER YATES

Cynthia D'Amour kisses hubby James, who satisfied 42 of her 46 requirements. She met 300 men in her well-organized man search.

Most of the places on D'Amour's list of fifty spots to meet singles are fairly predictable—libraries, laundromats, bookstores. D'Amour says there is no all-purpose list for lonely-hearts, because everyone is different. But she knows Ann Arbor thoroughly and offers students specific suggestions such as, "If you want to meet upscale shoppers, go to the Merchant of Vino," or "Olga's of Briarwood has two-top tables that make it easier [for people to meet]."

How successful are D'Amour's classes? In literature promoting a ten-week course that started this fall, D'Amour promises that singles who work seriously with her "will find that your success with the opposite sex will increase beyond your wildest dreams."

Pressed for details, D'Amour is less effusive. Although she talks up a couple of marriages among her "grads," as well as several serious dating relationships, she admits that she has not done follow-ups and doesn't know if most former students did indeed meet Mr. or Ms. Right. (Her advertisements include several signed testimonials.)

A couple of people who recently attended several seminars told me that, while true love still eluded them, D'Amour had proved a stimulant for action. "Cynthia helped me come out of my shell," said one fortyish woman who became bold enough to ask out a man she met in an ATM line. (He said yes.) A twenty-nine-year-old man says the role playing in class helped him relax when meeting new women. But both questioned D'Amour's assumption that others can become dating whirlwinds like her. "She's very vivacious," says the woman. "But if it's not you, then it's not you."

D'Amour points out that she offers to refund the money of anyone who feels let down by her courses; so far, she says, only one person asked for his money back. "How can you take this class and not get anything out of it?" she asks. "People walk away with more confidence, with skills they can use in work [as well as in dating]."

D'Amour has both an entrepreneur's willingness to take risks and the enthusiasm of a natural motivational speaker. She feels her program stands out from other "learn-to-flirt" classes because she emphasizes role playing instead of lecturing, and because she urges people to "practice" outside of class. "What I do is I really teach people the skills that are involved in dating," explains D'Amour. "No one's ever taught it, and there's a lot of shame that surrounds the 'Why can't I talk to people?,' 'Why am I less than perfect?' kind of thing."

"I don't want to be a flash in the pan," she insists. "I think maybe I'm on the cutting edge of something." She's writing a book. She hopes to get bigger, expand to other areas, attract outside financing. She recently kicked off a ten-session "holiday survival class" that, she says, is designed to get single people over the barren stretch from Thanksgiving to Valentine's Day. The price is $495 (with discounts for early enrollment).

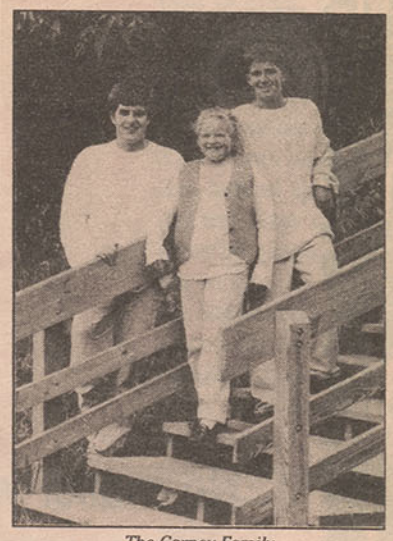
Above all, D'Amour feels she's tapping into a need: single people, many dragging along baggage from previous relationships, who long for connection, but are spooked about trying to find it. Recently, when she went around the room asking what people were going to do to try to find dates during the week, one young woman replied, "Leave my apartment."

Happily married and brimming with confidence, D'Amour has come a long way from those days herself. As a recent class wraps up, she demands to know what we all plan to do to meet people during the coming week. I say I'll go to a party. One man says he'll go to a meeting of the Jaycees; a woman says she'll try to start a conversation with someone in a grocery store. The silver-haired man who's attending his fourth D'Amour seminar says apologetically he's still not ready to do anything yet.

"Don't ask for a date," Cynthia tells him briskly. "Just talk to someone you don't know!

"You've got your missions!" she shouts as the class begins to scatter as though a bell has gone off. "Next week we'll talk about the people everybody met. Good luck!" ■

Lynne Pryor
PHOTOGRAPHY



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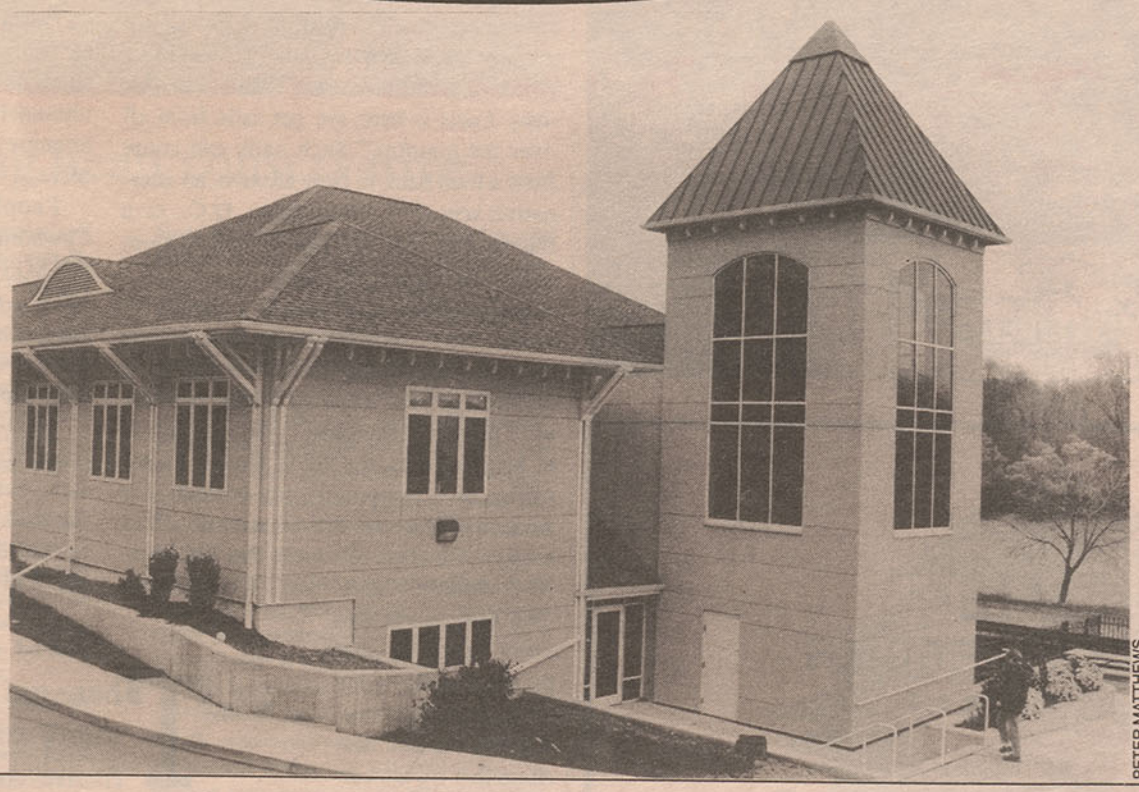

PETER MATTHEWS

From its idyllic center on North Main, NEW Inc. is helping nonprofits prepare for life after Gingrich.

by Susan Jane Gilman

Four years ago, the Huron River Watershed Council—a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the river—was squeezed into a dingy office above a garage. Exhaust fumes wafted up from below, making the four staff members queasy. Their desks barely fit into the cramped space. "Whenever anybody wanted to stand up, they'd have to announce, 'I'm getting out of my desk now,' and the rest of us would have to move our chairs so that they could get out," says Kris Olsson, the agency's water resource specialist. Meetings were held in the employee lounge downstairs in the garage, next to some vending machines. "We weren't putting forth much of a professional image," Olsson admits.

Today the Watershed Council is located on the shore of its namesake. Housed in the NEW Center at 1100 North Main, its offices overlook Argo Pond. A canoe is moored on a dock just outside. The staff, which has grown to include four full-time employees and five part-timers, uses the canoe to give visitors river tours and to remind themselves why they've chosen to work for this particular agency. And upstairs, there are conference rooms—two of them—one with a panoramic view of the river.

The Watershed Council is just one of eighteen nonprofit organizations housed in NEW Center. Other tenants in the new depot-style building—constructed on top what used to be Lansky's junkyard—include the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Dance Gallery Foundation, the Junior League, Artrain, Habitat for Humanity, and Global ReLeaf. The tenants pay rents that are less than half the market rates for similar space downtown. Each has its own office, and all share a library and state-of-the-art conference rooms, computers, faxes, and photocopiers.

The Center itself is run by a nonprofit group, NEW Inc. (the acronym stands for Nonprofit Enterprise at Work). "We are the only nonprofit support center in the nation that has created an environment of shared space, offices, and equipment," says Judith Cawhorn, NEW's development director. "It's an idea whose time has come. We've not only cleaned up the junkyard, but we're transforming the community."

"Our mission is to serve the total nonprofit sector," says Anne Glendon, president of NEW. "This includes arts, human services, environmentalist groups, volunteers, donors, and associations. It's huge." According to Glendon, nonprofits are now the fastest-growing sector of the American economy. And NEW is dedicated to helping them all to become more efficient and viable. It's the biggest and most advanced resource bank of its kind—anywhere.

The Engler effect

The NEW Center began seven years ago as the vision of Ron and Eileen Weiser, the president and director, respectively, of the McKinley Foundation. (The foundation takes its name from McKinley Associates, Ron Weiser's Ann Arbor–based real estate company.) The Weisers' idea was to create a center to promote the development of nonprofit arts and human services groups within the community. The center would house both the nonprofit agencies and an organization that would help them to flourish. After five years of wrangling, setbacks, and problem solving, the NEW Center opened its doors in 1993.

Not a moment too soon. Following the inauguration of conservative governor John Engler in 1991, Michigan was cutting back funding of government-run social services, education, and arts programs. "Many services that were formerly provided by the government or within the family are now being met by the nonprofit part of the private sector," Glendon explains. "As the government moves toward the privatization of human services, nonprofits are taking over human care."

That transformation is now being repeated on a national scale, as Newt Gingrich's Republican congressional majority implements the Contract with America. "It's really cliff-hanger time," says Glendon. "There are so many amendments and bills [affecting social services and arts funding] coming up in Congress in the next three months. It's a time of intense drama for nonprofits."

Gingrich argues that private charities can solve social problems more effectively than governments. But the task is huge, and nonprofits lack the money and expertise to step into the breach. A recent *Wall Street Journal* article cited figures suggesting that federal spending to aid the poor currently outstrips private charity ten to one. In addition, the article noted, about a quarter of the so-called "private" spending is actually supported by federal grants—many of which Congress is now in the process of eliminating.

These political changes are putting the squeeze on nonprofits: in the future, they will need to provide more services even as the money to fund them gets harder to find. "Because we do advocacy around people's eligibility for Social Security, SSI, and disability, with the shrinking resources and things as they are politically right now, there's a tremendous demand for our resources," says Marsha Katz, vice president of the Association for Community Advocacy, another NEW Center tenant. "At the same time, though, funding has decreased dramatically." In the past, Katz says, the ACA has received federal funding through grants administered by the Michigan Developmental Disability Council and the Developmental Disability Institute at Wayne State. But now, "federally, both are being wiped out. They won't have the potential to provide grant money," Katz says. "Since the Ninety-four election, there are fewer supports for nonprofits. Funding for human services, funding for advocacy, and funding for nonprofits have all been decreasing."

The good news, if you can call it that, is that Michigan's 20,000 nonprofits have been facing these pressures for some time. "Michigan is ahead of the curve because of Engler's platform," Glendon says. "In some ways, it's a great benefit. It's prepared us earlier. Wise nonprofit leaders, boards, and volunteers are positioning their nonprofits for the changes that may lie ahead. They're identifying their priorities."

Many nonprofits, however, currently lack the managerial skills to successfully

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confront such enormous challenges. "There is a great danger that a time will come when planning, open dialogue, and thoughtful decision making will be shortchanged in the interest of finding expedient solutions," says Glendon.

One-stop shopping

For this reason, NEW does far more than oversee and assist the nonprofits in its building. It serves as a comprehensive resource for nonprofits across the nation. "We're essentially one-stop shopping," says Glendon. "We work to empower organizations, to help them to perform more effectively and efficiently. While our primary focus is here, we get calls from all over the country." Such calls can come from a food bank in New Mexico, an alternative school in Washington, D.C., or a trauma center in Vermont as well as from groups throughout Michigan.

NEW offers guidance in a variety of ways. Most immediately, the Center serves as a physical model. By housing eighteen diverse agencies in one building with private offices and collective spaces at bargain rents, the NEW Center exemplifies how nonprofits can collectively achieve efficiencies that none could afford singly. "We share resources that we otherwise wouldn't have," says Kris Olsson. "We have access to a copy machine that prints double-sided as well as collates. We have a fax machine that we are certainly not able to afford on our own."

"Before we moved here, we were located over the Taco Bell on East University in a real closet," says Ruth Zweifler, director of the Student Advocacy Center, which offers advocacy services to children in regular and special education. "The center is almost luxurious. It's given us some credibility."

> "There are so many amendments and bills [affecting social services and arts funding] coming up in Congress in the next three months," Glendon says. "It's a time of intense drama for nonprofits."

The arrangement has another important benefit: the shared work space results in shared knowledge and expertise. "There's the synergy of like-minded professionals in the same building," says Glendon.

"Sometimes this type of work is extremely lonely," Zweifler agrees. "Here, there's a lot of support and commiseration."

"Just coming to a place of work like this every day has a positive effect," says Olsson.

"We all speak a similar language, so it's very helpful," says Debra Polich, executive director of Artrain. "Someone down the hall will say, 'Oh, you're working on a grant proposal? I'll give you some recommendations.'"

Artrain, in fact, has been doubly fortunate to land a place in the Center. Railroad tracks run parallel to the riverfront: the organization had only to install a siding in order to "park" the Artrain museum right outside its window.

NEW's influence, however, extends far beyond the benefits enjoyed by its own tenants, or even serving as a model for similar facilities. It reaches out to nonprofits—Glendon estimates that there are 2,000 in Washtenaw County alone—with training programs, workshop series, conferences, consulting work, and private mentoring sessions that can teach organizations everything from fund-raising to grant writing to volunteer recruitment to resource management.

"We're building a consortium of professionals and experts in the field to provide consulting to nonprofits at a rate they can afford," says Glendon. Each year, the Center sponsors some sixty-five workshops. Over 1,200 individuals attend these, ultimately benefiting some 400 nonprofit agencies—as well as the citizens they serve.

People like Glendon—and like Cawhorn, who worked for seven years at the SOS Crisis Center before coming to NEW—understand nonprofits because they've run them before. They know the bottom lines and are working to pass on their expertise.

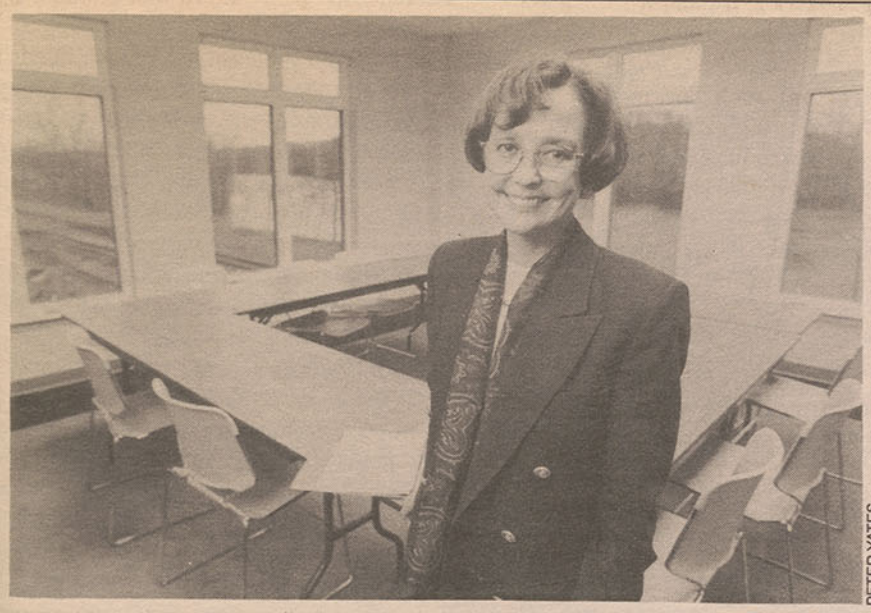
Nonprofits, Glendon says, are sometimes slow to recognize that they are, in fact, businesses. "They need strategies. Or, they may know that they're businesses, but they don't always have access to the skills and information they need. We provide them with the training and development resources available to big businesses."

In addition, the Center has a library full of information about nonprofits; two computers offer databases and online services. The Center also puts out its own literature on the nonprofit sector—NEW has recently created a partnership with local bookstores to distribute the Center's directory of nonprofit agencies.

To gauge the effectiveness of these efforts, one has to go only as far as the other offices in the Center. "At least two of us [at the Huron River Watershed Council] have taken workshops in grant writing and fund-raising," Olsson reports, "and it's really made a difference. We've grown tremendously in the last three to four years, and this is due in part to the NEW Center."

"The library has the Federal Register on computer," says Marsha Katz. "Since I'm always working with laws and policy, it provides us with wonderful access."

"The collaboration and partnership is excellent and very helpful," says Jennie McAlpine, executive director of the Child Care Network, which, prior to its tenancy at the NEW Center, was located behind a now-defunct Howard Johnson's on Washtenaw. McAlpine says that NEW helped the Child Care Network with grant writing



PETER YATES

A "bleeding heart conservative"

"I'm a bleeding heart conservative," Anne Glendon proclaims. In her cobalt-blue business suit and coordinated pumps, Glendon is seated in her office amid ringing phones, appointment books, and long-term schedules. With her perfectly coiffed hair and her warm-but-expeditious manner, she personifies professionalism and business-mindedness—precisely the qualities she works to instill in nonprofits.

"I have a very strong social conscience, but I'm a fiscal conservative," Glendon explains. In a career spent building nonprofits, she says, "I've learned an awful lot about how important it is to balance the many bottom lines of a nonprofit organization.

"Nonprofit administrators need to look at themselves as professionals more than they do," she argues. "Many have the credentials, [but] they need a sense of self-respect and outward respect. They aren't given credit for their financial acuity. They're treated as second-class citizens."

Glendon has provided much of the focus and driving force that has quickly earned NEW Inc. national recognition. As NEW's president, Glendon works fifty-to-sixty-hour weeks at "a very fast pace." She and her husband, Paul, an arbitrator, keep a five-year appointment calendar, booked way in advance, and she travels "increasingly," often shuttling between Ann Arbor and Washington, D.C., to attend meetings of the Support Centers of America and the Nonprofit Management Association.

"Anne Glendon is terrific," says Kathy Power, chair of NEW's Board of Trustees. "She's really taken the NEW Center from a start-up organization and turned it into a developing organization that offers so many services. She's very visionary, and has done a wonderful job for nonprofits in this area."

Glendon cut her teeth in her previous position as executive director and vice president of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Although before that she ran her own design business and volunteered for numerous causes, it was her seven years with the orchestra that taught her about the business of nonprofits: "Being the executive director of a performing arts group is a day-and-night job, seven days a week. I worked eighty hours a week," she says.

The orchestra hired her initially on an "interim" basis at a time of crisis. A small, community-based ensemble with an annual budget of $50,000, it had no earned income and a significant deficit. By the time Glendon left seven years later, she had recruited community leaders and worked with them to transform the orchestra into a regional institution with an annual budget of over $600,000 and no deficits over an eight-year span.

"[A nonprofit] really is a business," she comments. "The difference is that the profits don't get divided among the shareholders. You just reinvest in the services."

Glendon credits her successes and her skills to the people around her. "I work with some of the nicest people in the world, people who have warm hearts, who are givers, not takers," she says. By all accounts, she, too, fits this profile.

—*S. J. G.*

and with ensuring that it didn't duplicate services available elsewhere. "The nonduplication of services is very attractive to funders," she says. "We're more likely to collaborate on grant proposals."

Explains Cawhorn: "We don't want people to duplicate services and create a whole lot of similar nonprofits going after the same, limited amount of money."

The shadow of New Era

This "limited amount of money" is now under more pressure than ever. One study cited in the *Wall Street Journal* estimated that nonprofits would have to increase contributions by 247 percent in the next six years to make up for planned cuts in government spending. Compounding this are recent scandals within the nonprofit sector that have damaged fund-raising abilities just when they are needed most. Lavish spending by the recently deposed head of the national United Way, as well as the New Era fund-raising scam, which duped universities, charities, and religious groups, have hurt everyone in the sector.

"One or two incidents cause a firestorm," Glendon says. While small, local nonprofits have not been affected directly, "indirectly, all nonprofits are affected. The Washtenaw United Way took immediate steps to distance themselves from the national organization. New Era cer-

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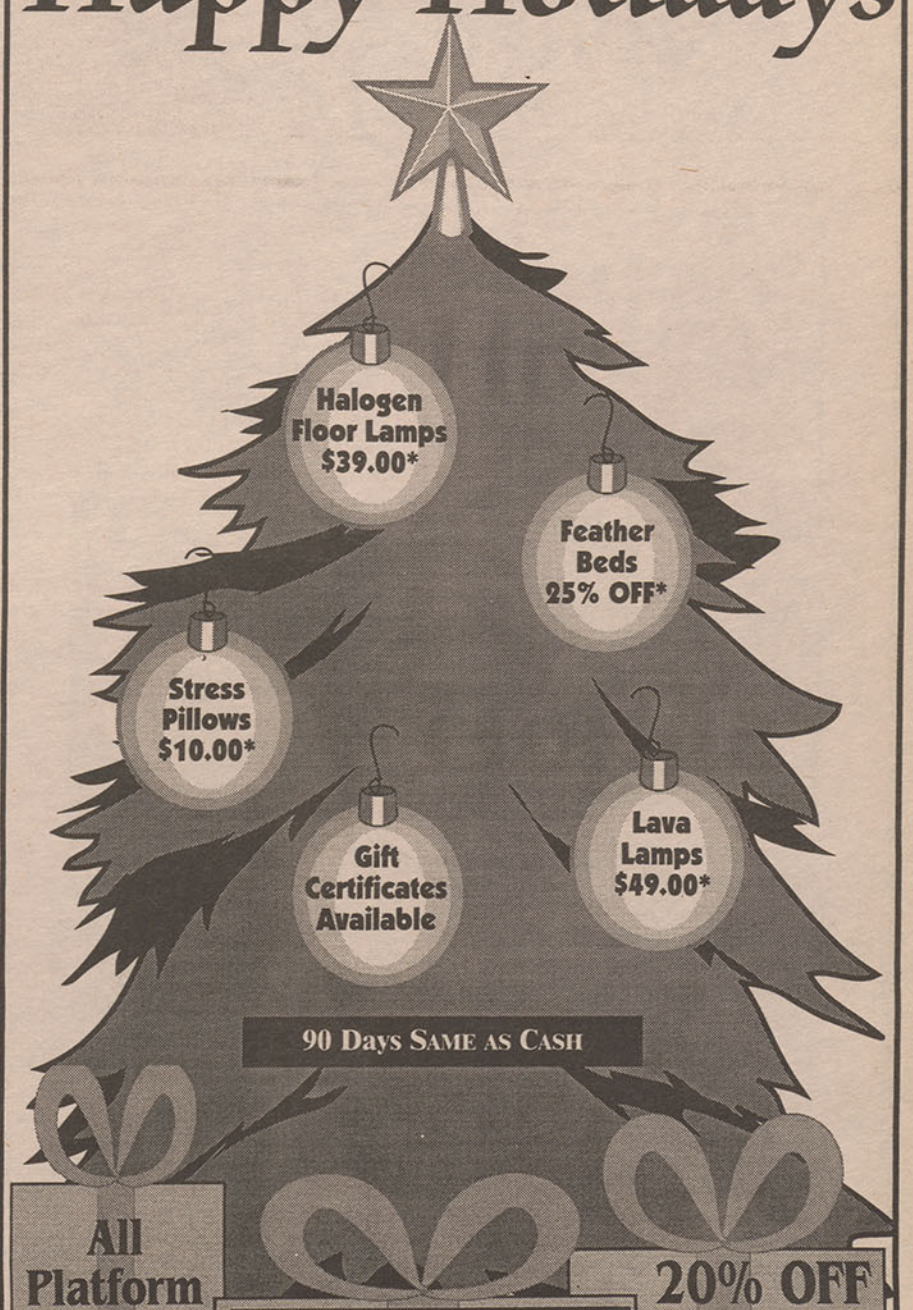

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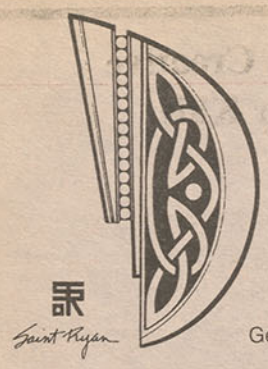

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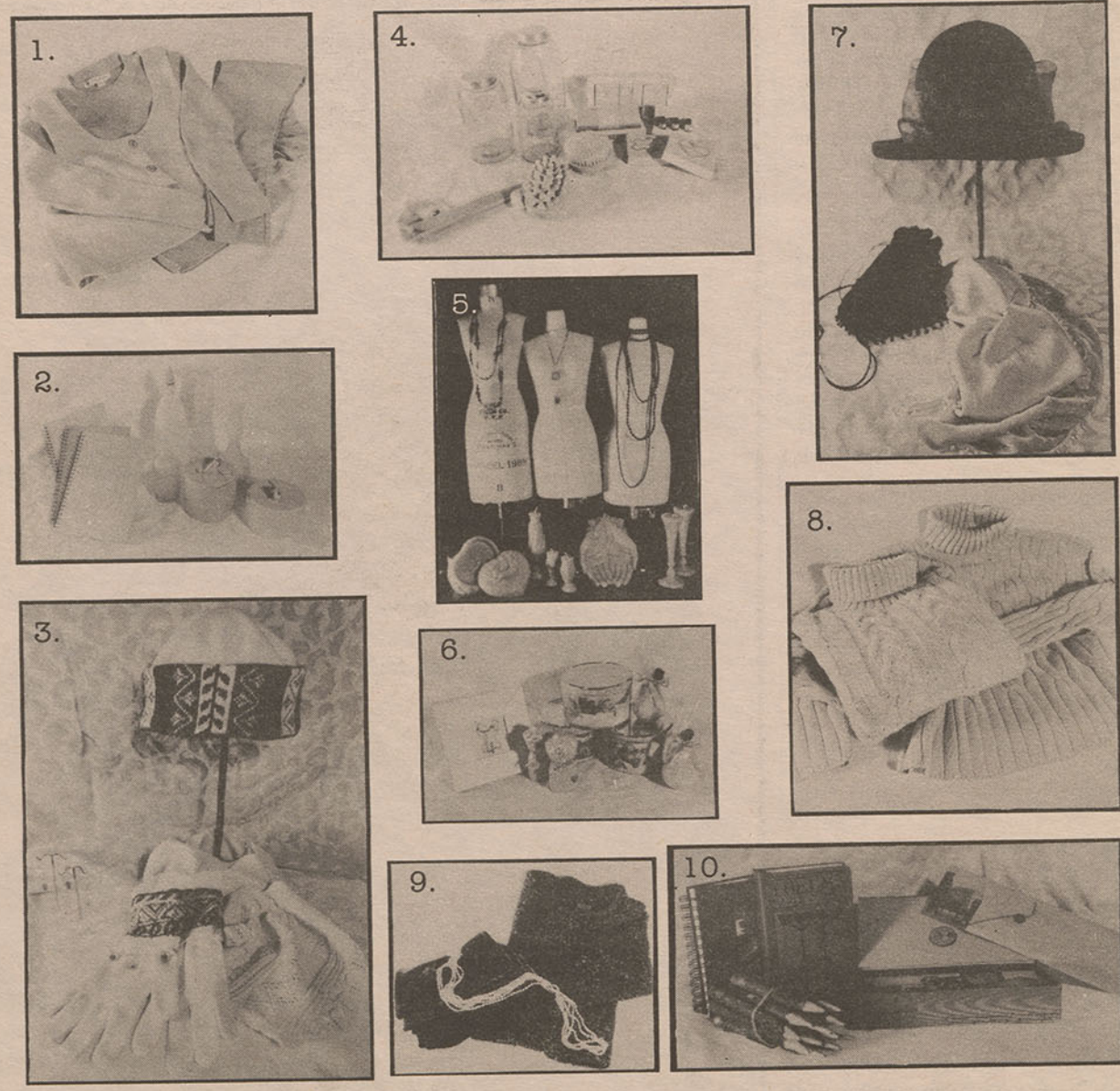

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CHARITY U *continued*

tainly affected arts organizations, such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The larger the organization, the larger the hit. But the whole sector suffers. Negative news is not trickle-down; it's a flood. It generates adversity, and the real victims, ultimately, are the nonprofit service recipients."

Over the past five years, Glendon adds, scandals have contributed to a decline in individual giving and erratic patterns of donating in general. Not only are donors more reluctant to give, but as a result of the scandals, they're also more demanding. Says Artrain's Debra Polich: "We have experienced a change in expectations of accountability. This is across the board. A long time ago, people thought, 'Oh well, if a nonprofit organization doesn't manage its money well, it's because it's a nonprofit and not really a business.' Now the public wants to make sure there's not a mismanagement of funds." This means nonprofits have to be vigilant about "dotting their *i*'s and crossing their *t*'s and paying attention to where they put their money," Polich says—money that is increasingly difficult to raise.

A nonprofit itself, NEW Inc. does not want to compete with its own clients for funding. A good part of its revenue, therefore, comes from its services: training and consulting work, conference room rentals to non-tenants, contracted work, and the sale of nonprofit literature. Other monies come from foundation grants. Most recently, NEW was the only organization in Michigan to be awarded the prestigious Aspen Institute Nonprofit Sector Resource Project Grant. With it, NEW will be launching a study on the impact of federal and state funding changes on nonprofit organizations.

The chronic shortage of funds further aggravates a shortage of people—a problem that has plagued nonprofits from the start. Since nonprofit organizations are always low on capital, they're often forced to hire too few people for too little money. "Everyone here is grossly underpaid," says Ruth Zweifler, whose own position has never been paid at all. "It's unfair that people who do community work in the community for the community don't make a living wage. It bothers me that we talk about the dignity of all people but are economically abusive of our own employees. They have no pension and no retirement at all."

Since nonprofits pay such low salaries, sometimes the only people who can afford to work for them are volunteers or the wealthy. This perpetuates the misconception that those who work in the sector aren't in it for the money, don't care if they're paid, and see the benevolence of nonprofit work as its primary reward.

"One of the most alarming misconceptions about nonprofits is that people do it for altruistic reasons," says Glendon. "But they have to get paid. They do important work. They're overworked." For this reason, burnout in the sector is high: "The average turnover is every three years. That's a huge loss of experience and expertise," Glendon says.

PETER MATTHEWS

In training programs, workshop series, conferences, consulting work, and private mentoring sessions, NEW Center teaches everything from fund-raising to grant writing to volunteer recruitment to resource management.

Low pay and high turnover are financially, psychologically, and professionally draining. NEW has worked to alleviate those strains by helping nonprofits to recruit and sustain volunteers, whom Glendon calls "critical" because they perform services as well as relieve some of the burdens of the paid staff.

Planning for the future

The savings on rent at NEW Center also allow tenants to expand and better compensate their staffs. NEW Center's positive effect on staffs, however, will last only as long as its tenants remain within its protective cocoon. And that fact only heightens concerns about what will happen when they have to leave.

Policy at NEW dictates that the office spaces be turned over every few years so that as many nonprofits as possible get a chance to benefit from the Center. This means that organizations currently in residence will eventually lose their lovely offices and high-grade facilities. And because of the way many nonprofits are funded, some of them stand to lose staff members, too.

The grants that are the lifeblood of many of the nonprofits are highly specific: every dollar of a grant must be spent on a designated program. Grants cannot be used for normal operating expenses nor saved for a rainy day. So for the most part, savings realized by tenants at NEW Center will disappear when they move out. "Mary [of the Center's tenants] have put that money into staff," Jennie McAlpine says. "Yet they won't have this extra money anymore when they move." Which means that the organizations may have to let people go and substantially cut back their operations. Moving out of the NEW Center could actually leave some nonprofits more depleted and less efficient than they were before they moved in.

This poses a dilemma that NEW has not yet been able to solve. Initially, the Center hoped that its current tenants would be ready to move when their leases expire in 1996. However, earlier this year, when NEW reviewed the organizations' statuses, it realized that none of them was yet in a position to relocate. NEW felt compelled to renew all eighteen leases. "We're an experiment ourselves," Glendon admits. "We realized that three years was not enough. We're giving people a whole year or two or three to complete the stabilization process before we move them out and others in."

NEW has considered expanding its facilities. But as attractive as the idea is, it's not fiscally possible now. "It's not a good time in terms of our own business," says Glendon. "We did a real needs assessment and feasibility plan and found there was too much financial risk."

This leaves the Center to strike a difficult balance between the needs of present and future tenants. "We need to be fair," Glendon says. "We've got a long waiting list." At least forty other local nonprofits are currently hoping to move into the Center.

> Lavish spending by the recently deposed head of the national United Way, as well as the New Era fund-raising scam, which duped universities, charities, and religious groups, have hurt everyone in the sector.

Still, if Glendon and the others at NEW succeed in their mission, local nonprofits will be able to stand on their own two feet—regardless of whether or not they're in the Center. "Our tenants already are stronger and more empowered," says Glendon. "[Moving out of the Center] will be a growing opportunity for them. Their capacities for dealing with change positively will increase so much. And we stand ready to help them through the process. We expect to maintain a close relationship with all our tenants. We have a marvelous relationship with them. There's a sense of family." ■

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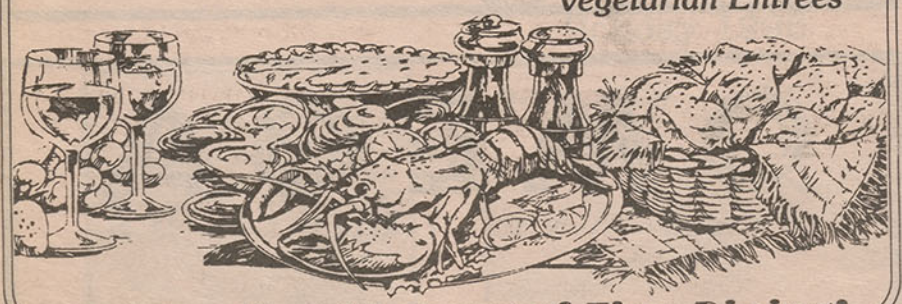

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Escoffier

His master's voice

JOHN COPLEY

Auguste Escoffier (1847–1935) did not invent French cuisine, but he did perfect it, codify it, and bring it to the fore. In 1902 he published the definitive work on French cooking, *Le Guide Culinaire*, which is still used today. When one thinks of traditional French cuisine, one thinks of Escoffier's recipes, his mastery of previously little-understood cooking processes, and his authoritative compendium of over 200 sauces.

Escoffier the restaurant aspires to honor its namesake. Everything about the dining experience, from owner Maureen Perrault's suffered-over wine list, to maitre d' Terry McClymond's practiced Jean-Luc Picard professionalism, to the dishes prepared by chef Frank Lucarelli, says "traditional." It's classic without class consciousness, haute cuisine without haute couture.

Lucarelli has been around. He championed regional Italian dishes at Bella Ciao, then highly seasoned nouvelle cuisine at the Kerrytown Bistro, before striking out on his own in 1993 with his Cookin' concession at the Bird of Paradise jazz club. There, he catered to night-owl grazers with everything from kimchi to goulash to jambalayas. He says his move to Escoffier a year ago was like a homecoming. "I've always been the kind of chef where my style is classic, traditional cooking. I don't mix a lot of ingredients together like some others."

Sous chef Paul Kulikowski has followed Lucarelli through his last three gigs, and Lucarelli gives him a healthy credit. Kulikowski is responsible for the splendid sorbets, like kiwi-sake or sour apple, and he can stretch three pounds of fish into a half-dozen splendid prix fixe entrees.

Auguste Escoffier	Frank Lucarelli
Born 1847 at Villeneuve-Loubet.	Born 1964 in Toledo.
Began his cooking career at twelve.	Began his cooking career at sixteen.
Served as chef on a steamer bound for America.	Traveled to Rome in his twenties to be a chef.
Made his name in a French hotel in 1890's England.	Made his name in a French hotel in 1980's Ohio.
Presided over several of London's finest kitchens, including the Savoy, the Carlton, and the Ritz.	Presided over several of Ann Arbor's finest kitchens, including Bella Ciao, the Kerrytown Bistro, and the Bird.
Once described as "the king of chefs and the chef of kings."	Once described as "inimitable."

The "Chef's Special," the daily rotation of three-course prix fixe menus, is where Lucarelli and Kulikowski really strut their stuff. This is no blue-light, blue-plate special or entry-level accommodation; the prix fixe ($23 for soup or salad, entree, and dessert) is often the best food being served that day—and a decent value, too. Fully half of Escoffier's guests order the chef's special, especially those who are trying to squeeze in dinner between the restaurant's 6 p.m. opening and the downbeat of an 8 p.m. performance across the street at Hill Auditorium. To maintain a leisurely pacing, Escoffier will hold table and check so that concertgoers can enjoy a relaxed dessert after the performance.

Diane and I sampled the Chef's Special pasta with wild mushrooms—oyster, crimini, shiitake—in a light tomato-cream sauce with broccoli and late summer squash, an otherwise well-balanced dish that was undone by an excess of fennel and by fettuccini that was, perhaps, a couple minutes past al dente. A grilled trout prix fixe was very fresh and rare, served simply with grilled fennel and a virile wild rice cake. Lucarelli's best is the snapper nicoise *en papillote*, which appears weekly. This is a classic tomato, caper, and olive treatment, the firm fish poached on a bed of balsamic-vinegared spinach and the rich aromas of garlic and fennel rising from within the parchment-paper wrapper.

The coq au vin frequently moonlights as a prix fixe entree. Escoffier's is a classic, the half-hen tender and well infused with the brandy-wine reduction. This dish spoke to me in the tones of a muted jazz trumpet at the bottom of its range. Another refugee from the dinner menu is the *escalope* of salmon, grilled with a peppercorn-herb crust. Like the trout, the salmon is on the rare side, its flavor beat out by the pepper and a redundant balsamic spinach bed.

Salads include an unseasonably fresh assortment of bitter field greens and a kitchen-prepared Caesar heavy on the cracked pepper. The soups are a better choice for rounding out the prix fixe triptych. The velvety cream of white bean soup from the autumn menu is redolent with fennel and a red pepper coulis. We enjoyed the smoky Provencal lentil soup du jour, with bacon and mushrooms in an onion-tomato broth. The traditional peasant spinach-mushroom soup was a wash: it had a classy spiciness but little else to recommend it.

Appetizers (all a la carte $7–$8) include two standouts: endives scattered with slivered raw beef, blue-veined goat cheese, scallions, and capers in a sharp balsamic vinaigrette; and a bowl of tiny Provencal mussels steamed with tomatoes and jalapenos. The second tier includes mushy escargots *en croûte* in a blasé saffron cream sauce, and a grilled shellfish plate—tough shrimp and marshmallowy scallops—in a fresh mustard, lemon, and herb cream sauce. I wanted to buy the house seafood pate and the salt cod (a holdover from an August Spanish wine dinner menu), but they were out every time I ordered them.

Diane ordered the Escoffier Taste of France vegetarian entree ($17), a wedge of slivered turnip, potato, and carrot with spinach, baked au gratin in a nutty Mornay sauce. Also included were a sauteed herbed red cabbage slaw, a broiled tomato on a bed of balsamic spinach (deja vu), a whole grilled fennel bulb (again with the fennel?), and that born-to-be-wild rice cake.

The Provencal seafood soup entree ($19) is a subtle stew of mussels, scallops, and salmon served in a broad bowl of non-fishy vegetable broth with a side of croutons and a roasted-garlic aioli. The herbs failed me on this dish, as did the utensil of choice—they'd taken away my soup spoon after the first course, and I had to ask for another.

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Tournedos in a *demi-glace* of brandy and junipers ($22) were cooked to a perfect medium, but arrived cold (an anomaly—most appetizers and entrees reached the table fairly piping). Upon reheating, the filet mignon's flavor was outstanding, although the portion was somewhat small.

Desserts ($5–$7) include a cumulus of white chocolate mousse served on a tart raspberry syrup; a traditional creme caramel, chilled (I prefer Robby's presentation, top-browned with a torch); and an earthy Grand Marnier–infused dark chocolate truffle mousse served on wedges of orange peel. House sorbets are potent. High marks to Kulikowski for his strawberry, raspberry, and caramel-apple ices.

Owner, wine steward, and housemother (the adolescent at the bar is her son), Maureen Perrault has been bringing in microwinery selections you can't get in stores and charging reasonable prices ($30–$40) for them. I was particularly impressed by the California varietals from the Brutocao vineyard: a crunchy Chardonnay with mellow botanicals, and a weighty Merlot, dry as a bone, packed with fruit. Many of the grand crus that departed from Escoffier's cellars in a 1991 reorganization have since been replaced by a lesser number of respectable appellations. No wine snoid would be disappointed.

A note on the service: either Escoffier's onto me or they've cleaned up their act. I'm betting on the latter, since I take pains to protect my dining anonymity. I've heard numerous complaints about Escoffier's snootiness, but I experienced none on any of my recent visits, even when hosting my dressed-down newlywed in-laws. (No one is turned away for want of a jacket and tie.) Contrary to last year's reports, Escoffier is a more accessible fine dining establishment than ever.

There's a certain tension to this restaurant—Auguste Escoffier's traditionalism fighting with the great expectations evoked by his name. The food *is* fine, but perhaps a bit too conservative for me. I wait for Lucarelli to hit a home run, but he keeps hitting singles. On the other hand, he hits lots of them, and his consistency is admirable. Garnishes and herb dustings are refined, understated. Desserts aren't "to die for" but to *live* for (and to die *of*). I can't help but think that Lucarelli is simply held back by low volume, that a restaurant of eighty-five seats that's rarely over half-filled so confines his selection of ingredients and preparations that the menu is necessarily limited. On the other hand, that can be a blessing in disguise: these aren't easy dishes to produce. In this regard, Escoffier remains true to its namesake. Auguste would be proud.

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Quick Bites

Ann Arbor food sites on the rebound: **Espresso Royale's** successful State and Packard tenancy has put to rest the notion that the old Southside location was unworkable. **Prickly Pear's** volume belies both its woeful waitstaff and the high-turnover curse put on its address by former tenants Robert's Poco Cafe and 312 South Main. (Chez Crepe *was* successful, but its owners retired.) **Aut Bar's** volume is way up over its previous incarnation, La Casita de Lupe. Paul Saginaw gets the "Lightning Strikes Twice" award for turning around **Zingerman's Practical Produce** (previously Markadia), even as the labor-intensive deli side of the business suffers from the local service-employment crunch. **Breugger's Bagels** on North U sees more traffic than Drake's ever did in its final years. Ditto the **brewpubs** over their Washington Street predecessors.

❧❧❧

Big Ed Jonna, *the* **Merchant of Vino,** was voted Retailer of the Year in a recent national alcoholic beverage industry survey. Jonna got his start with two Detroit liquor stores, Big John's and Tradewinds, in the 1960's, then flew with his market to the suburbs, where, in a shrewd move to accommodate state liquor laws, he opened his first Merchant of Vino wine–gourmet foods store. The Ann Arbor Merchant of Vino superstore, which opened in 1992, helped Jonna win recognition as the Borders of his industry.

❧❧❧

Celebrity chef **Jimmy Schmidt,** recently returned from the James Beard Association's Dinner of the Decade in San Francisco, now turns to opening his Ann Arbor restaurant. It will share the south half of the old Kline's department store with the relocated Ark. The tenants are coordinating their renovations, from needed improvements in the mechanical systems to historically consistent architectural detailing.

Schmidt told the Observer in June that his Ann Arbor restaurant will be either an authentic family-style Mediterranean place or a casual, less expensive version of his downtown Detroit flagship, the Rattlesnake Club. His recent partnering with Germano Minin of Udene, Italy, to open Chianti Villa Lago in Grosse Pointe's former One-23 could foreshadow the former, but I'm betting on a **Rattlesnake Grill** concept. An announcement is imminent.

❧❧❧

Quick Bitten! I found out—too late!—that the November Quick Bite telephone message dissing the beer at Arbor Brewing Company actually came from a manager at Grizzly Peak! My apologies to ABC for not catching this blatant conflict of interest; we'll be doing better Food Gossip diligence in the future.

❧❧❧

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—David C. Bloom

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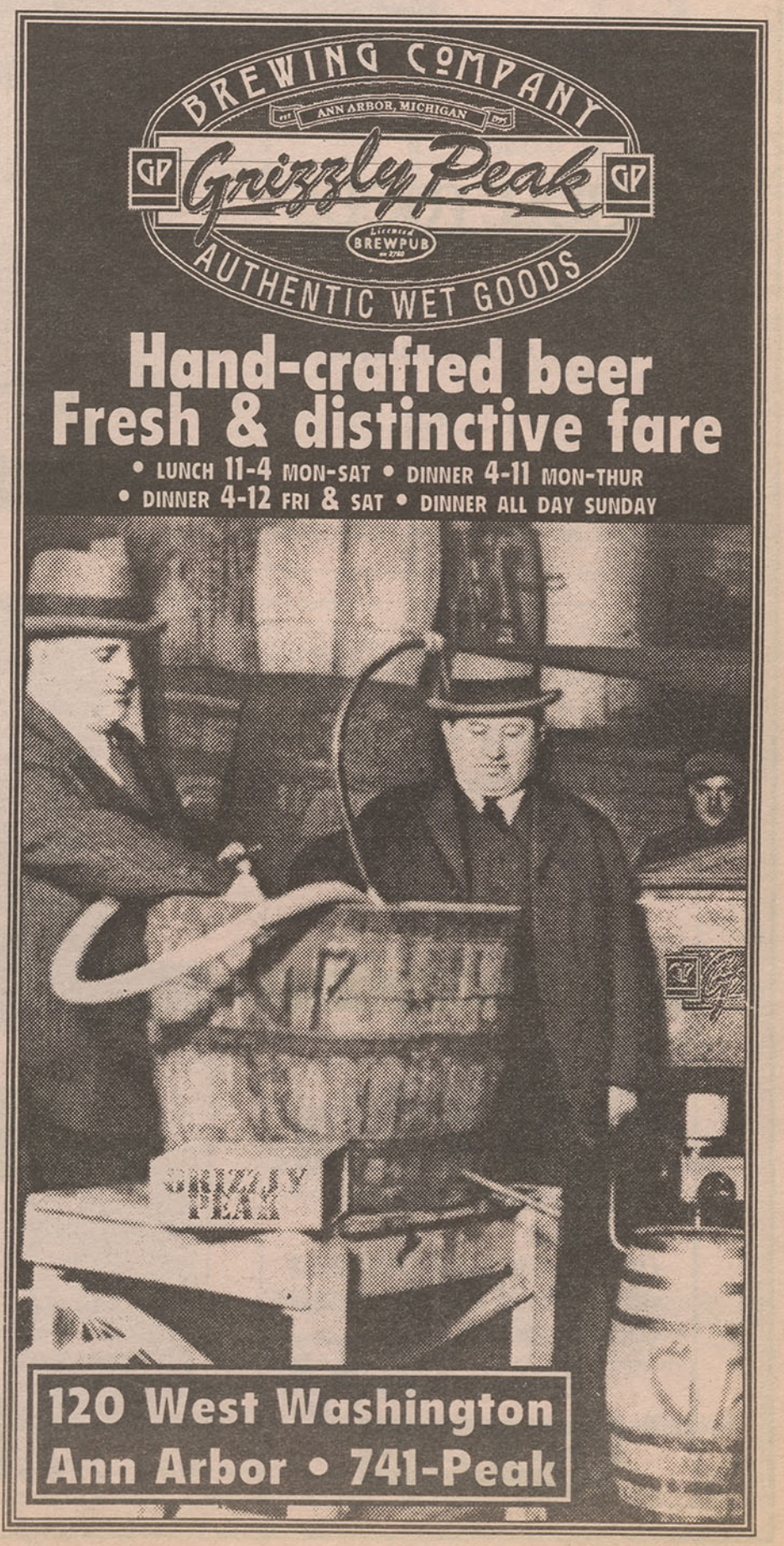

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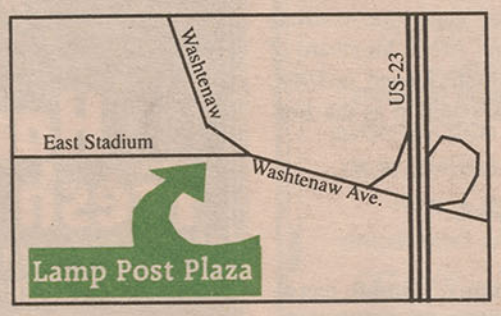

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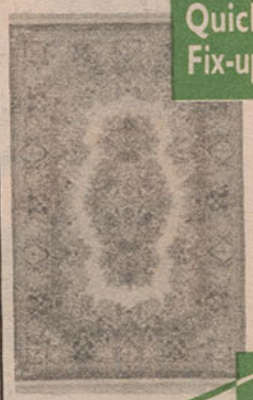

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Requiem for Schlenker's

For Ann Arbor's oldest store, the problem wasn't just competition, but the withering away of its whole support system

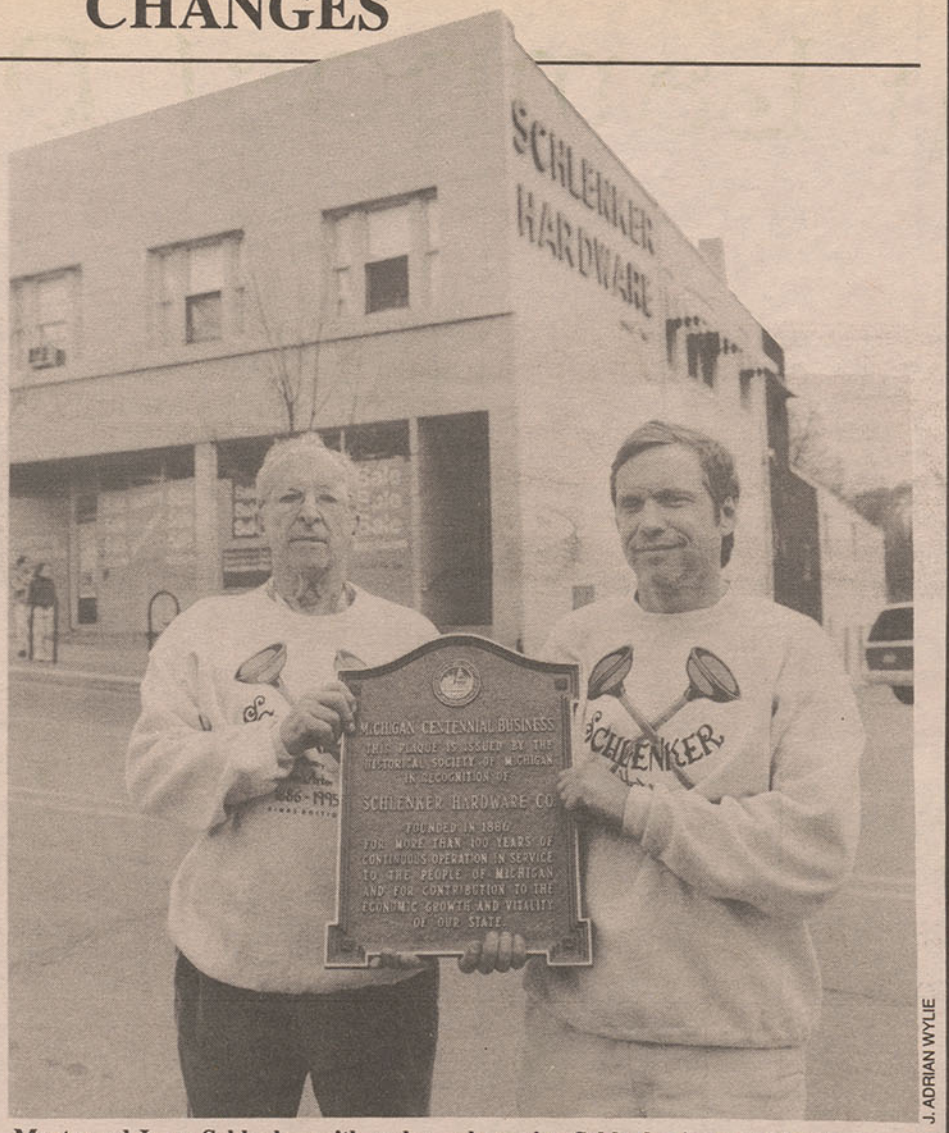
"You know about the frog?" asks Marty Schlenker. "They say if you throw a frog into a pot of boiling water, he jumps right back out, but if you put a frog in a pot of cold water and turn on the heat, he'll boil to death. We jumped." In a retail environment that is slowly but surely getting hotter, Marty's son Jerry decided to close **Schlenker Hardware** before national competition macro-waved it away.

Schlenker Hardware was Ann Arbor's oldest retail business. Christian Schlenker opened the family's first shop, with a partner, in 1886. It occupied the building where Rider's Hobby Shop is now, but only six months later it moved across the street to what is today Ehnis and Son. In 1906, the family built their own narrow three-story building (one story is partially below grade) a block west, where Liberty crossed Allen's Creek. (The creek still passes behind Schlenker's, but it's been confined to an underground pipe since 1926.) In their turn, Christian's children, Martin A., Ernie, Paul, and Emil, were all partners in the business, but primary ownership eventually passed to Martin A. *His* children, Martin E. (the current Marty, of the frog story) and Flora Mae, lived upstairs during their childhood (the third floor is split into two rental apartments now) and eventually became owners themselves. Flora Mae sold her share to her nephew Jerry in 1978.

The ascendancy of giant discounters like HQ and Builders Square ended this family succession. With stores the size of a city block and aisles wide enough for motorized vehicles, they have changed the entire scale of hardware retailing.

"It's not just competition," Marty says. "We've always had competition. Retail *is* competition." But independents, though competitive, often saw an advantage in working together. Stores like Schlenker's, Ann Arbor Implement (which also closed this year), Hertler's, and East Ann Arbor Hardware used to advertise together and even buy together, Marty recalls.

The problem was that the whole support system began to evaporate. With the big guys buying straight from manufacturers, wholesale houses began to close. Without them, small operators found it difficult to buy small quantities and unusual items. The friendly wholesale salesman, who explained products and acted as an intermediary between retailers and manufacturers, also disappeared. Stores now order many supplies through catalogs. Government regulations, paperwork, and taxes, Marty says, reduced incentives for the small businessperson. "The responsibility," he says, "is too great to make it enjoyable."


SCHLENKER HARDWARE
MICHIGAN CENTENNIAL BUSINESS
THIS PLAQUE IS ISSUED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN IN RECOGNITION OF
SCHLENKER HARDWARE CO.
FOUNDED IN 1886
FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS OPERATION IN SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN AND FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND VITALITY OF OUR STATE
SCHLENKER

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Marty and Jerry Schlenker with a plaque honoring Schlenker's as a "Michigan Centennial Business." The store's closing ends 109 years of family ownership.

The Schlenkers always took their responsibilities seriously. Like other hardware stores of its day, Schlenker's originally sold heating stoves, which led naturally, in time, to the sale and installation of furnaces, which in turn necessitated a sheet metal shop for duct work and eventually evolved into a full-line hardware store of legendary depth and helpfulness. During World War II, Marty recalls, his father had the metal shop crew come in early to make tightly covered tin boxes. The store gave them away to families for sending well-protected cookies and cakes to their loved ones in the armed services. Tradespeople, do-it-yourselfers, artists, and craftsmen cherished Schlenker's as a place to get special items fabricated for a very low price and to get advice for no charge at all.

Nuts and bolts didn't come in blister packs at Schlenker's. The store had so many that the entire stock had to be moved from the wood-floored street level to the cement-floored parking lot level to protect the building from their weight. Still, a patient employee would spend any amount of time helping a flummoxed customer figure out just which size was right for a small project and then dispense one or two as needed.

The store will close when the entire inventory is gone, probably at the end of this month. The building is for sale. Customers who looked to Schlenker's for special services want to know where to turn. For once, Marty Schlenker is pained to find himself without a helpful answer.

The Marshes make it big

Their Yes Sandwich Cafe has turned into a food phenom in just six years

What do you get if you work fourteen-hour days, seven days a week? Well, if you're Mike and Stacey Marsh, you get a growing local fast-food chain that's about to make the leap into the big time.

Six years ago, as newlyweds, the Marshes opened their first sandwich-and-yogurt shop in Woodland Plaza. By the end of this

HEAVENLY HAM . . .
The Good Taste of the Holiday Season

Ham—Half or Whole
(honey glaze-spiral sliced)
Turkey
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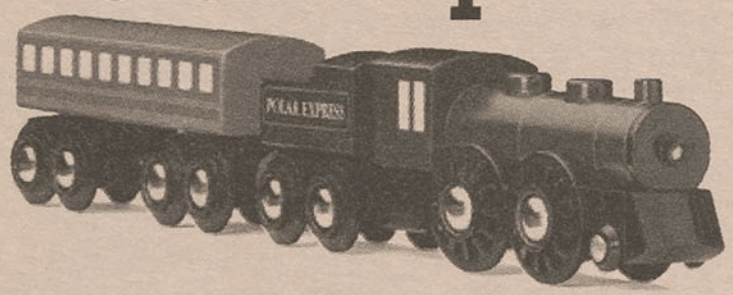

BRIO® brings the beloved children's classic, *The Polar Express*, to life with a brand new Wooden Railway train. It arrives beautifully packaged with a shiny silver bell and an audio cassette–perfect for holiday gift giving!

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Toys for the imagination. Clothes for real kids.
Gifts for new babes.

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Just six years after opening their first cafe, Stacey and Mike Marsh are franchisors, bread makers, and suppliers to Northwest Airlines.

year, they'll have opened their third **Yes Sandwich Cafe** in the Michigan Union; knocked down a wall to connect their second store, in Traver Village, with the adjoining Webster's Books; completed their first franchise agreements; and begun manufacturing ethnic-style breads to supply their franchisees and to sell at retail in grocery stores. If that's not enough, the Marshes since last year have been supplying sandwiches for Northwest Airlines' first-class meals. They could have had coach class, too, but figured that it would leave them with too little time to take care of their franchises. Instead, they're going to teach the airline's own kitchen to make the sandwiches and supply them with breads.

The Marshes were still in their twenties when they opened their first shop. But both come from business families (Stacey's folks owned a roller rink in suburban Detroit, while Mike's own Marsh's office supplies in Ypsilanti), and along with hard work, they knew the importance of good merchandising. Clean, simple, and jubilant, their red-and-white diamond logo practically qualifies to join international symbols like slashes that signify "no" and images of cutlery that signify "food." The Yes stores specialize in "wrap sandwiches"—fillings (meats, crisply fresh veggies, condiments, peanut butter, etc.) wrapped jelly-roll–style in a special flat bread. The burrito-shaped sandwiches can be eaten whole, but Yes also cuts them into one-inch rounds for party platters (catering currently makes up about 30 percent of the business).

Stacey Marsh developed the sandwiches using an Armenian flat bread called lavash. At the time, the bread was available as a crisp disk that needed moistening before it could be rolled. Once moistened, the product became perishable. The Marshes could also see problems of supply and quality control coming up as their consumption increased with the opening of franchise stores. The logical next step was to make their own lavash. So now, in the Airport Plaza industrial center on the south side of town, the Marshes have the toy of a lifetime: a fifteen-ton, ninety-foot-long tortilla machine, purchased used from Tyson Foods in Arkansas. Somehow, it's very funny to walk in the loading door to find the giant machine stretching from one end to the other of an entire clean white bay—or maybe the feeling is a response to Mike Marsh standing next to it grinning happily.

Staffed with five or six people, the machine can produce between 1,000 and 2,000 dozen flat breads an hour, depending on the recipe and shape. That means it can turn out one week's supply for the three existing Yes Sandwich Cafes in forty-five minutes, and could supply a hundred franchises in one forty-hour work week. So they'll have plenty of capacity to make breads for sale, too. The flat breads the Marshes bought at first were round, but as they developed their sandwiches they discovered that a football shaped bread worked better, so they're having new dies made to stamp out what they now call "Yes wraps." They'll use the machine's original round dies to make tortillas for the retail market. They also make a variety of soups and salads and bake their own pastries and muffins at their commissary, which is in a different building in Airport Plaza.

All this innovation and success has bred copycat competition. Similar sandwiches are turning up around town. Hudson's Marketplace at Briarwood has a version, too, which means they could spread around the country, via the department store chain, or through other national companies that learn of them through Northwest Airlines, before the Marshes can take them out of town with their franchises.

"Well, it's a compliment," Stacey says. "We just have to stay on top of it and do it better."

Yes Sandwich Cafe, Michigan Union food court, 669–8977. Probable hours: Daily 9 a.m.–10:30 p.m.

Yes Sandwich Cafe, Traver Village, 2603 Plymouth Rd. 662–3664. Mon.–Thurs. 7:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Fri. 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Yes Sandwich Cafe, Woodland Plaza, 2264 S. Main. 668–6603. Mon.–Fri. 10:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sat. 10:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

From Munising to Main Street

Yooper Kay Marsh will offer 5,000 periodicals at Main Street News

"I was at a point in my life when I realized 'My god, what am I going to do if I can't work in a bookstore?' " Kay Marsh explained as she was preparing to open **Main Street News.** Marsh, who was born and raised in the tiny Upper Peninsula towns of Munising and Michigamme, is a bouncy, hennaed person who combines small-town strength of character with MTV coolth. She started out in the book business in Kalamazoo in 1977. Between then and now, with chains overwhelming the book marketplace, Marsh has become an activist, championing the independents.

Last year, while she was working as manager of the Little Professor store at Westgate shopping center, Marsh formed the Ann Arbor Independent Booksellers Alliance. The alliance helps independently owned bookshops assemble joint advertising and, more generally, acts as their support group. This autumn Marsh became interested in the idea of having a store of her own, but she wanted to find a niche that wouldn't compete with her colleagues in the Alliance. The most obvious gap since the closing of the downtown Community Newscenters has been newspapers and magazines. That happens to be one of Marsh's favorite areas, so it was an easy choice. She has subleased the front 800 feet of Elmo's T-shirts on Main near Liberty. In October, she was planning to open in November and have a grand opening celebration during downtown's Midnight Madness on December 1.

It's no coincidence that there are few magazine stands around anymore. The markup is small, and so is the average purchase. Until recently, a typical markup was 20 percent. Marsh says due to competition among distributors markups are now frequently 30 percent and sometimes even 40 percent. Still, it takes a lot of sales to survive. Marsh, who lives on the Old West Side, says her neighbors consider downtown as their neighborhood shopping center so she's guessing they'll be regulars. Also she's part of the hip downtown scene–her husband, Lou Hillman, is a waiter at Grizzly Peak–so she's assuming that long evening hours will not only maintain a good sales level but will also make her store a trendy gathering place.

She plans to carry between 5,000 and 6,000 periodical titles (she estimates that the big bookstores carry about 3,000). Magazines will range all the way from standards like *Time* and *Newsweek* to children's magazines to weird things like *Scream Queen,* which features actresses from horror movies. That's not what's considered an "adult" magazine; she's staying away from those. She'll also be getting out-of-town newspapers rarely seen in Ann Arbor—including the Sunday *Upper Peninsula Gazette.*

Main Street News, 220 S. Main, 761–4365. Mon.–Thurs. 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 7:30 a.m.–midnight, Sun. 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m. (or later if there's sufficient demand).

Local owners flourish at Briarwood

Tim Ellis lands in the Grand Court

Most stores at Briarwood are owned and managed remotely, by giant chains. So it's big news that a locally owned franchise, **Coffee Beanery,** has just opened a coffee shop in the mall's most heavily traveled location–the Grand Court, right next to the stage.

Coffee Beanery franchisee Tim Ellis won't reveal how much rent he's paying for this prominent piece of footpath, but he does admit that the better the location

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

In addition to extending his Briarwood Coffee Beanery franchise into a cafe in the Grand Court, Tim Ellis is president of the mall's merchants' association.

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Dinner Special:
BUY ONE DINNER ENTREE & RECEIVE $3.00 OFF A SECOND DINNER ENTREE
5PM–CLOSE DINNER ENTREES ONLY
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Breakfast Anytime
Lunch • Dinner
Great Home Cooked Greek Foods
SHISH KABOB • PASTISIO • SPINACH PIE • MOUSAKA
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• Gift certificates available
• Enjoy our fresh fish & pasta dinner specials
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251 E. Liberty 665–7513 Totally Smoke Free
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A Toast to the New Year!

May you have:
Enough success to keep you eager,
Enough failure to keep you humble,
Enough joy to share with others,
Enough trials to keep you strong,
Enough hope to keep you happy,
Enough faith to banish depression,
Enough friends to give you comfort,
Enough determination to make each day better than yesterday.

Our best wishes for a happy holiday season to our friends.

Village Kitchen
241 N. Maple
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(in the Maple Village Shopping Center)
Mon.–Fri. 6am–10pm • Sat. 7am–10pm • Sun. 7am–8pm

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Mon.–Fri. 11:30 am–2 pm
$5.95 PER PERSON
CHOOSE FROM
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Fill your cup with the joy of the holidays,
the cheer of good friends and loving family,
and the warmth of a great cup of coffee.

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THE COFFEE EXPRESS COMPANY
Wholesale Roaster of Fine Coffees
Ann Arbor's coffee roasting company since 1982

SEASON'S GREETINGS

To the many fine people who sell and serve our coffees
and to all who are their patrons.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
THE
WEST END
GRILL

New American Cuisine
Where Traditional Foods Are Prepared In
Surprisingly Unexpected Ways!

OPEN FOR
NEW YEAR'S EVE!!!

RESERVATIONS ALWAYS ACCEPTED

120 W. LIBERTY, DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR
313.747.6260

at the mall, the higher the rent. The new unwalled cafe not only benefits the mall's stockholders with handsome rents, but it also gives the Grand Court a sort of uptown tweak. Ellis says the cafe doesn't take any space away from events like those for Santa Claus and the Easter bunny because it's entirely within an area that was used only for seating. Instead of the center court's usual configuration of low brick walls lined with leather banquettes, Coffee Beanery has twenty marble-topped tables and forty cherry-wood chairs.

Ellis is one of the few owner-operators at the mall, and he also is president of the board of the merchants' association there. "I like being involved," he says. "I work very hard.

"Let me tell you about myself. I've been married for twenty-five years. I graduated Farmington High in Sixty-three. Then I spent four years in the Navy—the last sixteen months in Vietnam. In Sixty-seven, I got out and went to work in a small manufacturing plant. I worked my way up to scheduling manager. After twenty-one years, I was in my early forties and I'd gone as high as I could go without being family [of the owners]." So he took his profit-sharing money and started his first Briarwood Mall Coffee Beanery franchise in 1989.

The new unwalled cafe not only benefits the mall's stockholders with handsome rents, but it also gives the Grand Court a sort of uptown tweak. Ellis says the cafe doesn't take any space away from events like those for Santa Claus and the Easter bunny because it's entirely within an area that was used only for seating.

"We were in our forties before we had kids," Ellis adds. (He and his wife Marsha are parents to six-year-old Savannah). "We have more fun than you could shovel."

The main Coffee Beanery, next to Hudson's, sells coffee beans and tea and lots of accessories and equipment for brewing and drinking them. Ellis's newest line of espresso maker has an optional device that automatically steams milk for cappuccino; until his initial supply runs out, Ellis has a promotional special that includes the option free with the purchase of the basic espresso machine.

The center-court Coffee Beanery carries the franchiser's full line of drinks. Many are suitable for children, including the iced "raspberry chiller" and the "cafe caramel chiller," which is made with decaf. The many pastries look terrific, and pie at $1.25 a slice looks like a bargain. The center court cafe opens an hour earlier than Briarwood shops do, in order to serve mall employees and the seniors and walkers who come in for exercise programs before opening hours.

There'll be plenty of Coffee Beanery advertising. Ellis is trading coffee service to KOOL 107's studio in return for air time. They keep a running tally to be sure they're coming out even.

Odds are against finding even one, let alone two, new local owner-operators at the mall, yet that's what happened in October. The new **Roncari Fine Jewelers** couldn't look more like a chain. In fact, it looks exactly like the shiny marble-clad **Shifrin Jewelers** that preceded it in the Jacobson's wing. That's because the mall, which has been demanding about dictating new store design, has allowed the Roncari family to keep costs down by simply moving into Shifrin's space without redecorating. Not knowing that in advance, it's almost disorienting to browse the display counters and vitrines and find them full of one-of-a-kind pieces rather than the usual interchangeable offerings of the mass marketers.

Angelo Roncari, of Cadillac, began sculpting twenty-five years ago. At first he worked in plaster, then went on to bronze and pewter, and then to jewelry. Two of his daughters also took up the craft. Sarah manages the Briarwood store and designs and fabricates jewelry. Emily, who also makes jewelry, is doing the shop's repair work. Julie, who is only twelve, hasn't yet declared whether she'll be a jeweler.

Offerings range from fine watches of the sort found at all fine jewelry stores to Roncari-made pewter chalices that wouldn't look out of place at art fairs. Rings, bracelets, brooches, earrings, etc. also cover a wide variety of styles, from ethnic imports from Turkey to rings with big purple-blue tanzanite stones in huge gold settings designed and cast by Sarah Roncari.

Aldo opened around the same time as the second Coffee Beanery and Roncari. Despite the personal name—for owner Aldo Bensadoun—Aldo *is* a chain, based in Montreal. The store sells very high fashion ("hip" and "mod," according to their publicity) shoes and other leather goods for men and women. Women must be feeling more overtly aggressive these days. The high heels on these shoes are thick blocks that could do double duty as mallets—nothing like the fragile looking stilettos which preceded them.

Abercrombie and Fitch (Changes, April 1995) also opened this autumn. Stores coming to the mall soon include **Bath and Body Shop, Kelly's Cafe and Bakery, The Perfect Pretzel, Nordic Track,** and **Store of Knowledge.** Honky-tonk went into abeyance at the mall with the autumn closing of **Glamour Shots,** a place that helped women get into a lot of makeup and a little bit of clothing before taking hopefully sexy photos. The **Mrs. Fields** cookie counter is also gone.

Briarwood shop hours are Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Coffee Beanery Cafe opens one hour earlier.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Adi Demiri and George Fotiadis are recycling some Ashley Street classics at the reopened Kerrytown Grille.

Kerrytown gains a Fleetwood offshoot

Hippie Hash finds a more genteel home

What do Hippie Hash and the Kerrytown Breakfast Special have in common? Almost everything except the name and the setting. George Fotiadis and Adi Demiri, who bought the Fleetwood Diner at the corner of Ashley and West Liberty three years ago, purchased the **Kerrytown Grille** in October. They plan to import their popular Fleetwood specialty into the rather more staid atmosphere of the north-side center.

The partners were only eighteen and twenty-four years old, respectively, when they bought the Fleetwood. They instinctively understood their market, and they did a super job of short-order cooking.

"We've probably done the best the Fleetwood has ever done," Fotiadis says. But with youthful enthusiasm, he also invested with friends in a Sterling Heights restaurant, and they lost a lot of money. (Demiri was too busy for that one; he got married instead.) "We probably had too much fun," Fotiadis admits. "That was a big lesson. I've matured. Now we have this new opportunity."

The Fleetwood has a long tradition as a hangout for people who might read Camus and comic books and smoke almost anything. Kerrytown customers are more likely to read Camus and the *New Yorker* and to be fussy about air quality. So the Grille is going to be a nonsmoking place.

Hippie Hash accounts for an astounding 30 percent of business at the Fleetwood. It's more of a theme with variations than an inflexibly orchestrated number. Basically, it's homemade hash browns, topped (or sided) with eggs or chopped veggies (diner's choice) and feta cheese. The price will be a little higher at the Grille than at the diner because the overhead is greater. Other breakfast dishes (available all day) include real pot-cooked oatmeal and even Egg Beaters for the cholesterol-wary.

At least to begin with, the Kerrytown Grille will do breakfast and lunch only, Sunday through Wednesday. Thursday through Saturday they'll do dinners, too. Fotiadis says they'll do lots of grilled dishes, soups and salads, and desserts, including classic homemade rice pudding.

Kerrytown Grille, 415 N. Fifth Ave. 994–6424. Mon.–Wed. & Sun. 7 a.m.–3 p.m., Thurs.–Sat. 7 a.m.–9 p.m.

Arbor Drugs buys Mindell's

The big guys take over at Carpenter Plaza

"What would you say if I told you we'd sold the store to **Arbor Drugs**?," Mickey Mindell asked, leaning on the counter to chat with Darwin Stoll in early October. Arbor is building a space at the north end of the center where **Mindell's Pharmacy** is currently located. When Arbor opens in early 1996, they'll close Mindell's. Stoll didn't say anything for a while—just looked stony-faced, taking it in. He's been a customer of Mindell's since it opened at Carpenter Plaza twenty-eight years ago. His parents are customers. So are his children and grandchildren.

"You live nearby, don't you?" Mindell asked as Stoll ruminated.

"Yeah, down in the trailer park," Stoll replied. "But no matter where I lived, I'd come here. You know, Future Sound closed across the street; you could reopen there."

There's no chance of that. As they are everywhere else, the big guys are moving in on Carpenter Plaza. The mall's landlord, Troy-based Stuart Frankel, let Mindell know he was not going to renew his lease, which ends in two years. Frankel also let him know that Arbor Drugs was interested in coming to the center.

"He wants triple-A grade [chain] tenants," Mindell says. "If I were a landlord, I'd probably feel the same way he does." Over the past ten years, Mindell and his son Michael, who has been a pharmacist at the store since 1975, had been approached frequently by Arbor about selling the store. Faced with Frankel's deadline, they realized the time had come.

"We're very unhappy," Michael says. "This is my home. I'd love to stay in business. [But] picking the store up and moving it would cost a million dollars." Mickey is retiring. Michael hasn't decided just what he'll do next. Terms of the sale pro-

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Zingerman's BAKEHOUSE bakes better goods

blueberry buckle

You've had the Bakehouse Blueberry Buckle at Food Gatherer's Grillin' fundraiser each spring. Now, by popular demand, the Bakehouse has agreed to bake Blueberry Buckle year round. Blueberries, sweet butter, sugar, cinnamon topped off with a butter-crumble crust. Don't delay—buckle up today.

$15.00/cake (serves 8-12)

rugelach

The best of Jewish baked goods. The name rugelach comes from the Yiddish "rugel" meaning "royal." Which is what they are—royally good cookies. Cream cheese pastry rolled around toasted walnuts, currants and lots of cinnamon sugar.

$8.50/1/2 lb. bag

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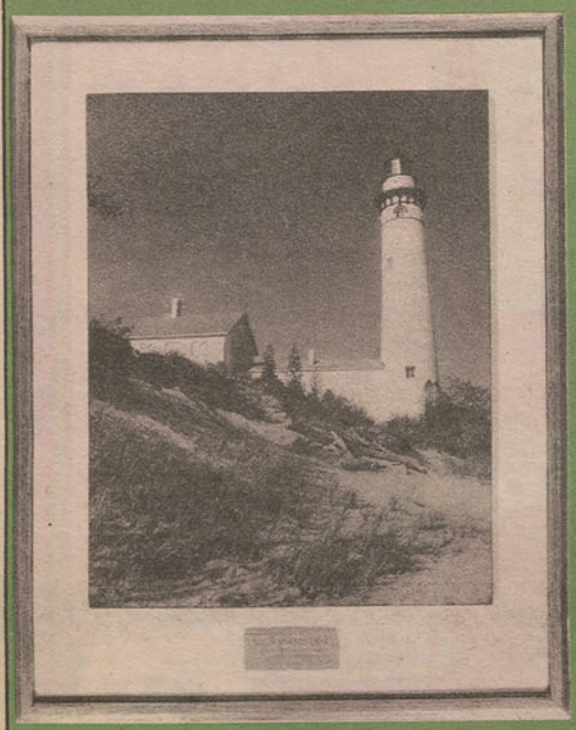

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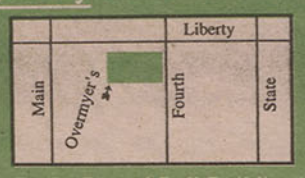

(In the Pretzel Bell Building)

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hibit him from opening another store within a five-mile radius of Carpenter Plaza.

"I remember when you moved here," Darwin Stoll said to Mickey Mindell with an I-told-you-so grin. "You said you'd have plenty of room. Three months later, the aisles were plugged."

When Farmer Jack became the center's grocery store in 1980, they wanted to expand into Mindell's original space, so he moved several doors south to his present spot and quickly filled it up, too. The long, narrow store was soon packed with liquor, perfume, makeup, toys, kitchen gadgets, candies, office supplies, gifts, thermometers, heating pads, and the many odds and ends that decorate, simplify, and fortify daily life. Still, like any old-fashioned drugstore, its heart is the pharmacy. The Mindells know essentially all their customers by name and remember their histories.

The Ann Arbor store was Mickey Mindell's eighth pharmacy. He'd purchased the first, Reid Pharmacy, in Detroit in 1953, and subsequently bought and sold others in the Detroit area and around the state. Since 1990, he's been down to just two stores, Mindell's and Reid Pharmacy. The Detroit store has been for sale for two years and, by coincidence, was sold about the same time that Arbor bought Mindell's.

Would Mickey Mindell enter the field today, knowing that pharmacy students can no longer expect to own their own stores as they generally could when he was a student?

"I'd certainly entertain the idea," he said. "It [pharmacy] is gaining more professionalism and stature. For example, there's the pharm D's, doctoral students who go on to work in hospitals, pharmacies, and research. We've had many pharmacy students intern here and they have all ended up as pharm D's.

"I've enjoyed the profession with a passion," he says. "I've always felt the pharmacist is the core of the community. It's an outstanding profession, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

Mickey and Michael Mindell are bidding farewell to three generations of customers after selling their Carpenter Plaza pharmacy to Arbor Drugs.

Assorted Notes

"I guess it's this year's cappuccino," says Susan Pollay, executive director of the State Street Area Association. Pollay is speaking of bagels, the combatively dense Eastern European bread that is cropping up on more and more mainstream menus and as the star attraction of an increasing number of shops, including the two Bruegger's bakeries (at Woodland Plaza and on North University) and the new Natasha's Bagel Fragel on Plymouth Road. Jumping for the latest growth trend, **Einstein Bros. Bagels** is opening on State Street, right around the corner from the campus Bruegger's. (No, there are no Einstein brothers in the business—it's a franchise owned by the same out-of-town investors who own the local Boston Market restaurants.) Highly adaptive immigrants, bagels now come in many disguises, including wry San Francisco sourdough, patriotic sunflower seed, mildly neurotic wild blueberry, and ingratiating chocolate chip.

Einstein Bros. Bagels, 307 S. State. Phone and hours not available at press time.

❧❧❧

Just when it seems that mailboxes hold only catalogs and bills, and that personal communications are being transmitted by cellular phones and E-mail rather than paper and ink, Ann Arbor has acquired three stationery boutiques. Last autumn Pen In Hand opened on South Fourth Avenue, this summer Pengaro opened on West Washington, and in October Nancy and Lisa Chenevey opened a showcase at Kerrytown for their **Regrets Only.**

These stores sell fine stationery and cards with an emphasis on personalized imprinting. Ironically, the same computer technology that fills the mailbox with too many publications and the Internet with a befuddling matrix of information and misinformation, is also making imprinted formal writing paper less expensive, and therefore more accessible, than ever before. Printing techniques range from calligraphy, computer-assisted with either laser printers or robotic drawing arms, to thermography, which looks like engraving but is less expensive.

Regrets Only, although the most recent to open a store, was the first of these three businesses on the local scene. Diane Leoni started it in her home in 1989. With a second child on the way last January, she decided to sell her well-established business to Nancy Chenevey. Nancy's daughter Lisa, a schoolteacher, helps out when she can. Like Leoni before her, Chenevey runs the business from her home, but she decided she needed more visibility. She has taken the little spot where Person-Ettes used to be, under the stairs in Kerrytown's Luick Building. (Person-Ettes, a silhouette design shop, is now also home-based; it can be reached at 426–3395.) It's more in the nature of what Chenevey calls "an oversized window display" than a shop, but she's there

on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and will be there more during the holiday season. The rest of the time it's a mini-showroom with examples of papers and gifts.

If letter writing never had it so bad in terms of competition for attention, it never had it so good in terms of beautiful papers—there are thick creamy ones, translucent parchment ones, checked and striped ones, wide-bordered (with mercifully little space for actual writing) and narrow-bordered ones, big ones and little ones. Most, Chenevey says, are "printer-friendly," for people who write their messages on computers. She also has gift items, including three luxurious lines of custom-made fabric-covered wedding and other albums and picture frames.

Regrets Only, 415 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown), 429–0727. Wed., Fri., & Sat., and by appointment.

Brazilian-born Halima Ketchman owns **Rags from the Attic,** a new store selling old clothes. "I met an American guy in Brazil," she says. "We got married and we came here to see his parents. We were just going to visit, but we stayed for school, and now we've been here sixteen years. [On visits to Brazil] I take [used] things to give away, and some things to sell to stores. So, I thought, why not do it in the U.S.? There's too much waste and a need for recycling. I'm very concerned about the environment. And a lot of students don't have enough money to get new clothes. I have clothes for men and women. Most of the students want jeans and sweaters, but I have suits, too. Monday and Tuesday are the days I take clothes in on consignment. We have a membership fee of five dollars a year and we take a fifty-fifty cut."

Rags from the Attic is in an exceptionately tidy house-turned-commercial-property on Church Street near South University. University Cafe is on the first floor, Ketchman shares the second floor with a tattoo parlor, and a beauty salon occupies the third. There's a small metered parking lot in back. The shop's hours are limited because Ketchman also works part-time as a hairdresser at Charisma on Liberty.

Rags from the Attic, 621 Church St. (upstairs), 669–9160. Mon.–Wed. noon–5 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m.–7 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Twenty-five-year-old Rashad Shafie has worked his way up through the local restaurant scene to ownership of the **Garden Cafe and Market.** He saved part of his salary working as a general manager for Amer's to buy a partnership in Lucky Kitchen at the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Road. Now he's sold his share of the Chinese take-out place to buy the combination full-service, take-out, and catering restaurant located in Huron Towers. He does room service for apartments there, but his business isn't limited to the building. He's across the street from the VA Hospital, which keeps him busy, and he

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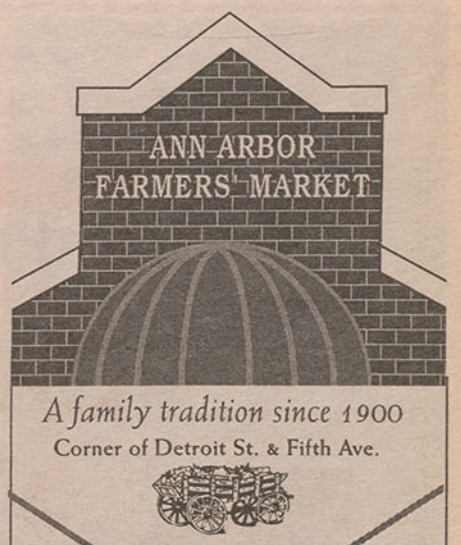

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He also has the distinction of serving what he calls "mom-cooked Middle Eastern" food. His mother, Rabia Shafie, has hankered to be a cook for a long time, he says. Somehow, she has time both to be a teacher at King elementary and to cook specialties for Rashad. "She's a great mom," he says. With her help, he's increased the Garden Cafe's catering orders from one or two a week, when he bought it in September, to four or five a day by the end of October.

He's offering seventy kinds of sandwiches ("Yes, it's a *very* long menu," he says), seventeen to twenty different salads, a special hot meal at dinnertime, desserts, including cheesecakes and tortes, and cappuccino and other coffees. It's all to make his place function as a coffee shop as well as a restaurant and a mini-market selling deli items like oils, vinegars, and candies.

Garden Cafe and Market, 2200 Fuller Rd. (Huron Towers), 663–3080. Mon.–Fri. 7 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m.–9 p.m.

Computer Renaissance, the used-computer shop that opened at the Colonnade on Eisenhower Parkway one year ago, has already expanded—though in a rather awkward way. When **Merle Norman Cosmetics** closed there, Computer Renaissance owner Taylor Bond signed on for its spot even though that means his one business now occupies two separated spaces. It's only a temporary fix. Bond is hoping to get one big space, possibly at the Colonnade, before too much longer.

Ann Arbor has turned out to be a great location for buying and selling used computers. Bond's first year's sales were double what he anticipated, he says, and exceeded those of all forty-five Computer Renaissance franchises. The number of stores is growing, too. Bond says the Minneapolis-based franchiser expects there will be sixty stores by the end of this year and 125 by the end of 1996.

Computer Renaissance, 869B W. Eisenhower Pkwy., 994–1030. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

The sign on the bakery at the Nixon Road edge of Plymouth Green may still say **The Rainbow Bakery,** but the place is really the **Carthage Cafe,** as reported in last month's Changes column. Julie Wilson and her husband, Ali Boubaker, chose the Rainbow name when they purchased the bakery this summer. After ordering a sign, they decided that Carthage Cafe suited them better. In October, Wilson was hoping a new sign would be in place in early December. The couple has already expanded the cafe's offerings and hours. They're importing Middle Eastern pastries from Dearborn. They have several varieties of meat, spinach, and cheese pies and several desserts, including baklava, for eating on-site or for takeout. Closing has been put off from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. In a few months, they'll add an espresso machine and stay open into the evening.

Carthage Cafe, 2711 Plymouth Rd. (Plymouth Green), 994–7862. Mon.–Fri. 6 a.m.–3 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.–3 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Last month the Changes column reported that with the closing of the Wolverine Deli at the corner of Main and Madison, its subtenant, **Dana's Deli,** would close temporarily until its owner, Dana Bartolec, found a new space. She has signed a lease for a storefront on East Washington between Main and Fourth Avenue. In October, she estimated she'd be ready to reopen in late December.

When Constance Bassil closed the **Art Deco Design Studio** on West Washington Street this spring, she said she was going to travel during the summer and then return to Ann Arbor to reopen her store at a new location. As promised, Art Deco has now reopened, this time sharing space with the Rebecca Berman Pelletier Gallery and Design Studio, next door to Zingerman's on Detroit Street. As before, Bassil sells glass, jewelry, and furnishings dating from the period between 1920 and 1950.

Art Deco Design Studio, 414 Detroit St., 663–3326. Hours are to be expanded, but the combined stores began with Pelletier's traditional hours of Wed.–Fri. 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closings

Robby Babcock has closed, at least temporarily, **Oyster Bar and the Spaghetti Machine,** located under **Robby's at the Icehouse** at the corner of First Street and Huron. In early November, he was awaiting confirmation of the sale of Robby's itself. If the Oyster Bar remains closed and Robby's changes hands, Babcock, who has been the gracious, debonair, and popular owner and host at the Whiffletree and the Gollywobbler as well, will for the first time in over two decades not be represented on the Ann Arbor restaurant scene.

"It all started because I didn't wear my shorts one day," Eric Snyder said as he was preparing for the closing of **Eric's Action SportsWear** on East Liberty. "I was playing tennis one day in Saint Clair Shores—mixed doubles—and I realized I was out there in my underwear because I'd forgotten my shorts. So I ran into the pro shop and bought a pair for sixteen dollars—'Thank you very much.'

"The next day, a friend showed me a shop that had the same shorts for eight dollars a pair. They were selling overruns

and closeouts." He knew someone he thought could operate a similar store for him in Ann Arbor, but when that arrangement fell through, he came to Ann Arbor to run it himself. That was twenty years ago, and he's been here ever since.

Snyder is closing now because giant discounters have run away with the idea—and the market. "You just can't cut it anymore with all the big guys," he said during his November going-out-of-business sale. "I want to thank all my customers. I had a lot of fun working with them."

Follow-up

Five years ago this month, the Changes column reported eleven retail and restaurant openings. Four of those businesses have since closed, but three of them were immediately replaced by very similar businesses. **L.A.'s Club** on Packard near State is now Rod's Diner, another student-oriented restaurant; **Leewards** at Oak Valley Center has been replaced by Michael's, another national hobby-supply chain; and **Liberty Street Antiques** owner Gloria Oviatt closed that consignment shop, but opened Ashley Street Antiques right next door. Only **Maldonado's Used Furniture** is totally missing from the scene. Still open: the **Body Shop** and **Travel 2000** at Briarwood; **Office Max, MC Sporting Goods, Target,** and **Dots** at Oak Valley; and **Artinian Jewelers** at Lamp Post Plaza.

December 1990 survival rate: 64 percent

❧❧❧

One year ago this month, the Changes column reported seventeen retail and restaurant openings. Only two, **Bain's Deli** at Briarwood and **Lindsay's** at the Bird of Paradise have since closed, and both are going to be replaced with similar businesses. Still open: **Maternite by Mothers Work, Bentley's Luggage and Gifts,** and the **Bostonian** shoe store at Briarwood; **Angel Treasures** and **Magic Memories** at the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Road; **Midwest Piano Distributors,** which has moved to the Village Centre near Oak Valley shopping center; **Golf Anytime** and **J's Place** (which had opened earlier, but was belatedly reported in the Changes column) on Carpenter Road; **Cooker Bar and Grille** on Plymouth Road; **HoneyBaked Ham** on Washtenaw near Pittsfield; **Basim's State Street Deli** in the 777 Eisenhower Building; **Tater's,** the food concession at Bel-Mark Lanes on Jackson Road; **Bargain Books** on State Street near Stimson; **Steve and Barry's University Sportswear** on State Street near the U-M campus; and the **Pro Shop** at the Arbor Dome on Morgan Road near I-94. Arbor Dome spokesperson Peggy Conlin says the facility closed for the summer, but is now open for indoor winter golfing.

December 1994 survival rate: 88 percent

—Lois Kane

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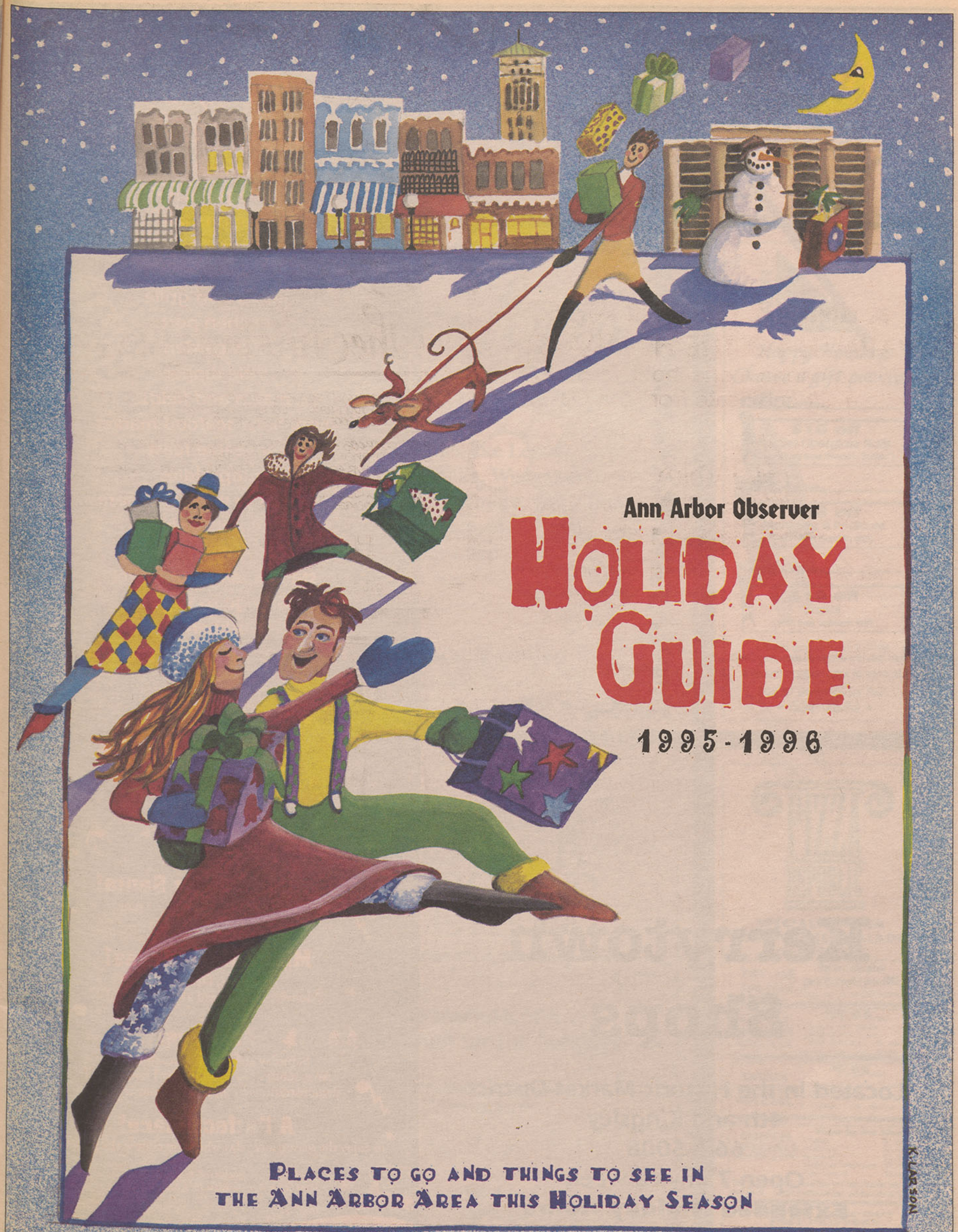

Ann Arbor Observer

HOLIDAY GUIDE

1995-1996

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Shops & Services: Weekdays 10-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5

Shops, Cafes, & Markets inside Three Converted Warehouses.

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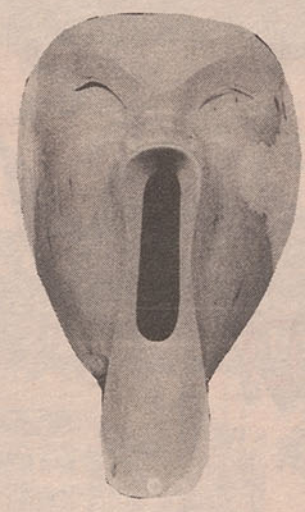
The Holiday Marketplace

A Tree Town Shopping Spree

By Conner Manheim
Photos by Peter Matthews



Reeling from this year's early winter, I started my shopper's tour in the gift shop at the U-M's Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Dixboro Road. The gardens give anybody a lift when the weather turns ugly, and the shop is well stocked with things floral and faunal. They've got the most colorful umbrellas in town; $27 and up, they show tropical scenes and sights. The most spectacular is a bird of paradise that ought to stop traffic. Cards holding bookmarks—a metal animal or leaf mounted inside a circle—are just $2, and there are countless stocking stuffers: dinosaurs, whistles, balls, gliding birds, and more.

In the village of Dixboro itself, the old Dixboro General Store on **Plymouth Road** has been reincarnated as a country-style furnishings shop. Among the plates, stick candy, and rugs are several lines of collectible figurines. The Sarah's Attic set focuses on African-American themes, with a new group devoted to the life of Martin Luther King Jr.; $65 buys a striking depiction of King writing his famed "Letter from the Birmingham Jail."

Small independently owned shops have a surprisingly large presence in the shopping centers that line Plymouth as it heads into town. White Rabbit Toys, in Traver Village, carries the Brio line of toys from Sweden: little brightly painted hardwood trains and cars that will be passed down like Lincoln Logs. A single small piece costs about $17; a more elaborate group is $39.95. The simple Koosh Ball has spawned offshoots: Koosh Paddleball is $19.95 here, and there are lots of other sports available.

Wild Bird Center has birdhouses in every size and price range, from colorful balloon-shaped hummingbird feeders at $12.99 to a Palladian extravaganza at $159.99, for someone who feeds really classy birds.

If you tend to buy gifts on impulse, stay clear of the ferrets at Pet Supplies Plus ($139.99). They are absolutely irresistible.

You'd be safer at the Antiques Mall of Ann Arbor across the street in Plymouth Mall, although you could run into trouble there, too. Right now they've got a decades-old barber chair for $495; I found it strangely compelling. But there are lots of cheaper antiques that would make great gifts: a whole wall of shelves holds working antique phones from $35 to $300.

If a bottle of wine seems too ordinary, how about Belgian ale? Merchant of Vino has a rack of these hearty ales, brewed by Trappist monks. Most are $5–$6 a bottle.

I loved a set of leaded-glass kaleidoscopes at Daydreams Gallery and Gifts, in the Courtyard Shops. You turn a marble attached to one end to shift the image (plain, $12; large airplane shape, $28.50). Much of the stock at New Adventures nearby consists of trading cards and fantasy game items, but there are some high-ticket sports collectibles as well, including a group of autographed balls, jerseys, and boxing gloves. (A Michael Jordan jersey checks in at $300.)

If you're serious about fantasy games, you have to get down to **South University,** where it seems as though every other door features the notice "Magic: The Gathering available here." The Underworld has an unusually wide selection of comic books, and they've set up tables where you can watch the fast-evolving game of Magic being played. There are unusual dark-side gift possibilities here: the hardcover *Necronomicon* collection of the mechanistic, futuristic horror paintings of H. R. Giger sells for $85.

At a few places along South U, retro student fashion trends have inspired some real creativity. I highly recommend Girard's, an antique-watch shop inside the Galleria. They have wonderful pocket watches for $65–$400 and up, pendant watches, vintage Spiro Agnew watches ($9), a watch shaped like a guitar that comes in a guitar case, and much more. At Splash, a clothing store near the East U corner, the classic simplicity of the Camp Fire Girls T-shirts caught my eye. They cost $19.99, and they come only in women's sizes, although guys try to buy them all the time.

Don't forget South U's durable retail institutions. The Village Corner, in addition to the trusty bottle-o'-wine ideas, has probably the only cigar videos in town: *Cigars: From Seeds to Smoke* sells for $22.95. And Middle Earth is such an embarrassment of gift riches that it seems a shame to pick highlights. I speak from experience: this is a store that won't let the procrastinator down. The cardboard Star Wars stand-ups are displayed only in the window, but they're selling fast. Most are $27.95. Mythological flying creatures from Indonesia (look up!) are around $35–$40, and wooden cats with wonderful long, erect tails are a mere $12. I

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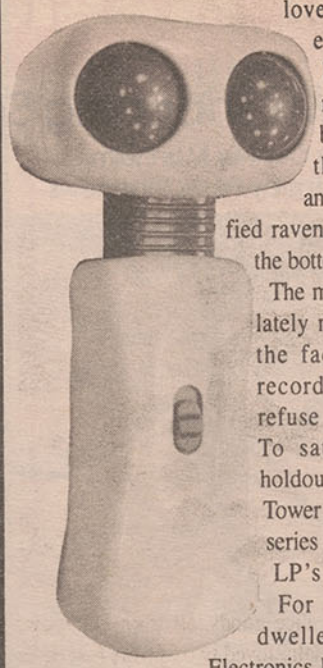


loved a group of earthenware bowls with a ring of fine blue glaze on the top edge and a sad, dignified raven silhouette on the bottom.

The music press has lately made much of the fact that vinyl records stubbornly refuse to disappear. To satisfy the LP holdout on your list, Tower Records has a series of classic jazz LP's for $9–$13. For the office dweller, Ulrich's Electronics has a good selection of fine art mouse pads; they're $7.95–$14.95. Ulrich's has U-M screen savers at $19.95, too.

Finally, the Earport next door is worth a quick stop. Latched-top "poison rings" at $32–$36 fit the retro look, as do pillboxes made from Ming vase fragments ($12 for this masterpiece of the recycling ethic). Bizarre teak masks from Indonesia are $55, and a set of Brazilian knives and flutes with faces carved into them are $36.

Drive away from campus on **Packard Road,** and a few blocks past Stadium you'll come to the Big Ten Party Store. The single most successful gift I've ever bought my father was a complete outfit of home beer-brewing equipment; here you can purchase everything that's needed, including books. They've even got British kits for $10.98; just add sugar and water to get forty pints of beer.

Nearby, at Lamp Post Plaza on **East Stadium Boulevard,** there are two unexpected treasure troves for gift shoppers. Findings for Artists and Seekers is a bead store and more, hosting workshops and classes for beading wannabes. They sell the bible of beaders, *The Best Little Beading Book* by Wendy Simpson Conner, for $28.95.

And be sure to visit Charlotte's Corner a few doors down, where shopping for kids is a civilized and pleasant venture. I was particularly interested in the Gargoyle Making Kit by Creativity for Kids. It has all you need to make your own statuary—from foam blocks. It costs $15.95. While there, I ran into local author and craftsperson Ann Jacobs Mooney, who was checking on the stock of her books *Tiger's Vacation* and *Tiger's New Friend.* Both include directions for making stuffed animals from the classic brown and red and white socks made famous by "sock monkeys." The books are $11.95 each.

Continuing east onto **Washtenaw Avenue,** Arborland is a good place to cruise for little last-minute gifts. Marshall's has lots of cheap, funny women's hats and a crazy variety of discount merchandise dumped out in the aisles. Check out the end stand of women's black shoes that look formal until you notice the little appliqued Santas on them ($19.99). Burlington Coat Factory has a vast stretch of silk boxer shorts for around $7.95, and their multicolor women's suede vests at $9.95 seem like a great buy.

Many an Ann Arbor apartment in the 1960's featured a lava lamp. If someone on your gift list needs a new one, they're available for $39.94 at Gags & Gifts near the mall's corner entrance.

Housewares from the stylish selection at Ace Barnes Hardware on **West Stadium Boulevard** are a great way to fill a spindly gift roster. Bright, jewel-colored plastic tumblers are a steal at $1.89 a piece. Sports buffs might appreciate an unusual stocking stuffer from Play It Again Sports at Westgate: hockey pucks are $3–$4 new and 99¢ used. Like all of Ann Arbor's amplitude of bookstores, the Westgate Little Professor is a bibliophile's haven for gift ideas.

If you enter **Briarwood** with frozen toes, you'll gravitate toward the microwaveable heat-retaining socks at Hudson's ($30). But black cocktail dresses from Late Edition on the main women's wear aisle also generate plenty of heat; they cost $99.99. "What sets humans apart from the lower orders," Dolly Parton explains in "Steel Magnolias," "is our ability to accessorize." Hudson's is ready to help. New this year is the nifty wallet-on-a-bag purse by Strada ($50)—a rigid zip-up wallet is built into the side of the handbag.

Power Ranger stuff was everywhere last season, but according to the folks at Kay-Bee Toys there's no clear heir to the throne these days. Browsing, I found lots of interesting stuff, including a Flush-a-Coin toilet bank ("with real flushing sounds") and plenty of good stocking stuffer items, such as a tiny Etch-a-Sketch keychain for $2.99 and a joke pepper gun for a buck.

Vibrations are big this year at General Nutrition Centers. They have a stimulating array of massagers available: warm, fuzzy massagers you can slip your feet into, hand-held massagers, and, most notably, the Magic Touch Massager—a device you strap on your wrist that, says the display, "turns your fingers into a vibrating massage." Neat trick. Anyway, it sells for $14.99. The tiny Cosmo Massager across the aisle costs $5.99 and looks like an alien.

Over at Wilson's Suede and Leather, I coveted a "faux shearling" thigh-length coat that the friendly salesman said is as popular this year as it was last. Crafted from suede and synthetic fur, it's quite a bit cheaper than the real thing and, as the guy said, "a little more politically correct." It costs about $200. I really liked a scruffy looking leather baseball cap for $25.

Bentley's has loads of smaller gift items along with its fine lines of leather luggage and briefcases. Dad will like the race-car belt hanger for $4.99. Pamper Mom with a siren-flashlight for $12. (Take note of the woman on the box: she means business.)

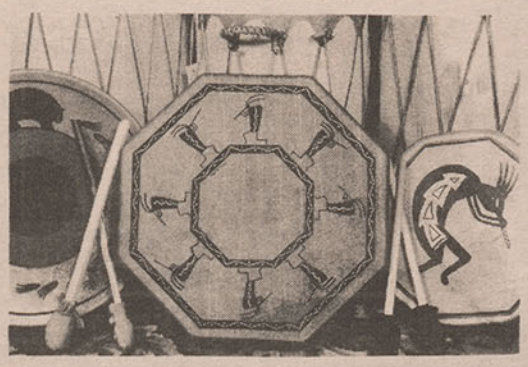
Nine West sells women's shoes and boots. I particularly liked the bright red or yellow an-

kle-high rubber boots. Good for stomping through slush, they're $30.

I had fun wandering through GapKids. Best find here: toddlers' fleecy coveralls in red or white, with red plaid piping around the edges and great buttons, for $28. One fun find: a kid-sized Greek fisherman's–style cap for $12.50 for the young Zorba in your family. Also, for girls: a great rack of A-line velvet jumpers that would look adorable and sassy over a turtleneck or T-shirt; they're $30 apiece.

Came upon a pair of interesting Common Market carts next to each other in the Jacobson's wing. First, I learned about Head Sokz, warm and squishy socklike things for your head (yes, there's an opening for your face) that can be worn five different ways. They're crafted from Polartec fleece in a choice of two weights, come in lots of colors and patterns, and cost $27 and $38. Ten feet away is a cart selling fake pies. Made from real salt dough and filled with cinnamon potpourri that can be "freshened" with scented oil, these pretty pies, made in White Lake, Michigan, range from $7 to $19, pie racks not included.

Cruising into Jacobson's, I resisted the shoes and headed straight to the home accessories section near the outside entrance. Here I found a whimsical collection of plates, baskets, condiment trays, and platters crafted of metal and metal wire and festooned with bright glass beads that look just like hard candies. Prices vary, but an hors d'oeuvres tray with two funny little knives will put you back $27.



Despite the silly name, Love from Michigan has some nice goods, all from you know where. I especially loved two mirrors framed in rustic birchwood and birchbark, complete with well-placed twigs. They're made in Harbor Springs and sell for $85 and $240. Pricey, but truly beautiful.

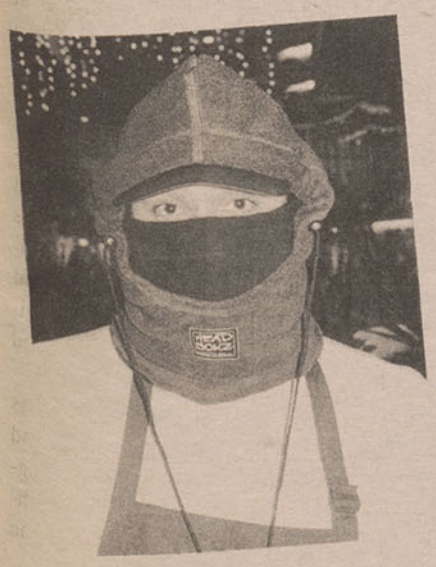
Natural Wonders is packed with holiday shoppers from the minute the Thanksgiving turkey hits the fridge. They have a wonderful calypso steel drum (by Woodstock Percussion) to bring the sound of the tropics right into your living room. It's $100. On the other end of the financial spectrum, check out the Glueslugs—disgustingly slimy, they stick to walls but leave no marks. They're $6 per slug.

Crabtree and Evelyn just put out a new line of water-based products. Everything in the La Source line has a pure, clean scent. There's even a water-based massage "oil" that won't stain anything. It costs $17.50; (the oil-based kind is $14.50).

Among its easy-to-browse kitchen furnishings, Williams-Sonoma is offering a line of unglazed terra-cotta bakeware in odd shapes and sizes. The garlic baker ($6) is one of those items a cook might like to have but would probably not buy for himself.

You might not think to shop for a chocoholic at the Body Shop natural cosmetics outlet, but this year they're offering Lip Choc, a set of chocolate-flavored lipsticks; a set that comes with eyeshadow costs $19.50. Or you could step across to Eddie Bauer and pick up a chocolate Ford Explorer for $12. And if designer jumper cables are on your gift list (maybe Versace will come out with an oil filter next year), Eddie Bauer has those for $28.

Boxed sets of recordings rack up most of their sales at holiday time. Saturday Matinee has a new take on the idea: boxed-set videos. A ten-pack of Gene Autry westerns or episodes of "Dragnet," or better yet, Charlie Chaplin



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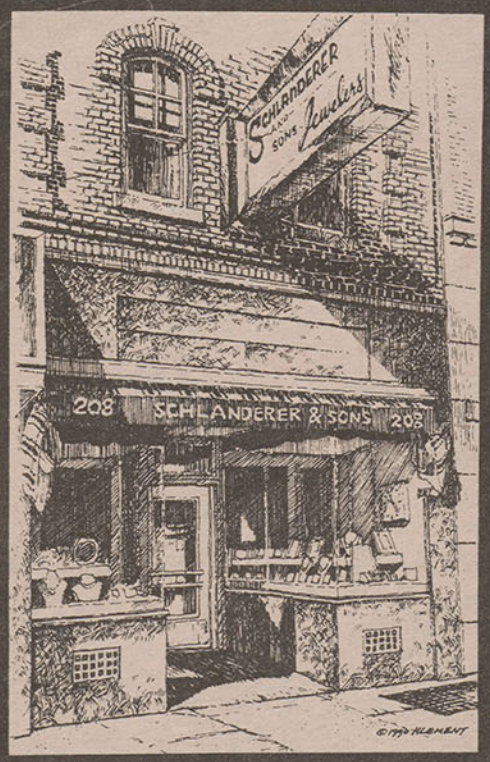

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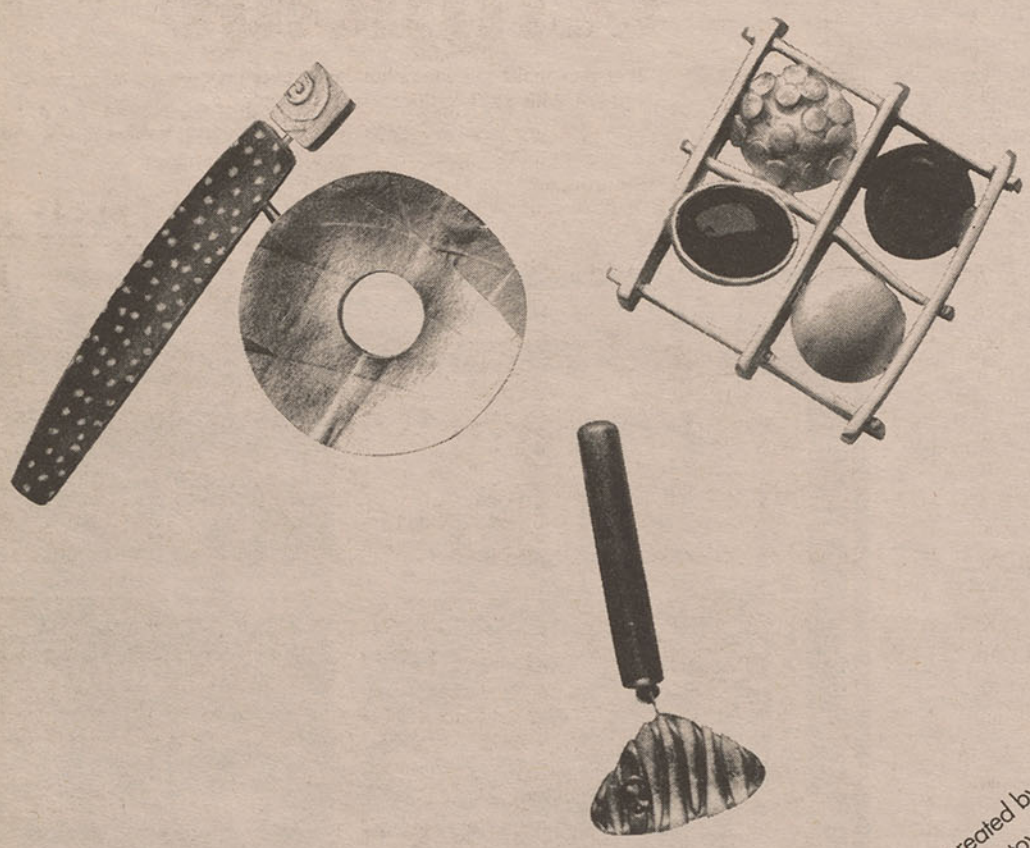

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Ann Arbor Art Center

(Jewelry by Sydney Lynch and Smia GuiterrezBecher)

shorts, is just $39.95.

The Farmers' Market near **Kerrytown** drops off some Ann Arborites' radar screens after the frost hits. But the Sunday Artisan Market and to a great extent the Saturday market, too, fill up with interesting craftspeople between Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are wreaths beyond the run of the mill, barrettes, furniture, art objects, and more—some from vendors who do not exhibit in Ann Arbor at any other time of year.

Indoors at Kerrytown, Kitchen Port's staff will gleefully point you toward the latest kitchen and dining room novelties. Pineapple Lights ($13.50) are candleholders atop a long spike that you drive through a pineapple or any other fruit or vegetable. The vegetable rests on a plate, held in place by another spike. Kitchen Port also has giant shrink-wrapped gingerbread houses that they'll ship anywhere in the country. They cost $40.

At the Marsh & Fields nature shop, a trend toward what might be called fine art birdhouses is in evidence. There's a signed set from Lake Tahoe, California, with old license plates for roofs. They use scavenged materials but come off as fresh and elegant, and they're functional, too. Prices are $50–$95.

At the other end of the Farmers' Market on **Detroit Street** are the highly individualistic Market Place shops. Of Gothic Proportions offers plenty of gifts for home and garden. There are gargoyles, stone frogs, and the like, but I was pleased by the simplicity of their round stepping stones. On sale for $7.95 and $8.95, they feature plain, graceful leaf designs.

Don't overlook Zingerman's as a gift source. Top-of-the-line balsamic vinegar makes a distinctive gift for the epicure. The Aceto Balsamic Tradizionale vinegars are kept in a locked case opposite the cash register. Red Label is $65, Silver is $95, and Gold Label, a blend containing vinegar dating back to 1800, is $130 for 100 milliliters.

I wandered south down **Fourth Avenue,** where in the last decade a funky renaissance has flowered into commercial maturity. At Pen in Hand, I particularly liked a medieval looking letter opener designed by Detroit artist Jennifer Schwartz. It's crafted from burnished stainless steel and copper, its handle inset with a shiny gemstone. This would make an elegant gift at $32.

Next door, Miami Moon sports endless jewelry, novelties, and accessories, all priced to sell. Plus, everything's half off through Christmas. Check out the black vinyl zippered top (now $55) or the cute boxy handbags and velvet backpacks (now $27 and $18). They also have a resident piercer for those parts of your body that need to be rendered holy. (Kids must have parental permission.)

A few steps farther south, at Aunt Agatha's Bookstore, I picked up the *Faber Book of Murder,* edited by Simon Rae. For $15.95, you can read snippets of great authors' writings about the big M: everything from Ambush to Zarathustra.

And at Common Language Books, they

have nifty rainbow and pink triangle doormats and area rugs ($20), a gazillion books on gay, lesbian, and feminist themes, plus a complete line of those naked postcards by that Harvey guy. For the perfect non sequitur gift, pick up *Women Who Kept the Lights: An Illustrated History of Female Lighthouse Keepers* by Mary Louise and J. Candace Clifford.

At the busy corner of **Main Street** and Liberty, I warmed up at Occasionally Gifts and perused a copy of *Michigan Haunts and Hauntings* by Marian Kuclo, otherwise known as the Green Witch Gundella. Okay. Anyway, it costs $11.95. Lots of other Michigan-themed goodies here as well.

I had big fun at Urban Jewelers, where I stumbled upon The Most Expensive Gift on Main Street: an 18-karat yellow gold and platinum engagement ring set, complete with a brilliant 3.02-carat round diamond in the center and two pear-shaped brilliant diamonds (.58 total weight) on either side. It's handmade by Mark Urban and is stunning. I even got to try it on. Will someone please buy it for me? It costs $25,900.

There's always good shopping to be done at Falling Water next door. They've just started stocking Pejaten Ceramics, made by a women's collective in Bali. They are small, simple but beautiful green decorative pots adorned with frogs and newts (the good kind). They run from $15 to $26. I also found myself coveting Campanula botanical oil lamps. These clear bottles are filled with lamp oil in which dried flowers, herbs, and fruits are suspended. They're $35 apiece.

Across the street at Peaceable Kingdom, I had fun playing with the Magnetic Poetry Kits. Each kit contains lots and lots of tiny words (with plenty of *s*'s for plurals). Stick 'em on your fridge and have conceptual fun in the kitchen. A set costs $19.95, creativity not included. You can also double-click on the Holy Family with the Martyr Mousepad for $18.

I learned a bit of Ann Arbor trivia on my trip next door to Schlanderer's: it's the only store in Ann Arbor officially selling genuine Rolex watches. They run from $1,900 to $20,000.

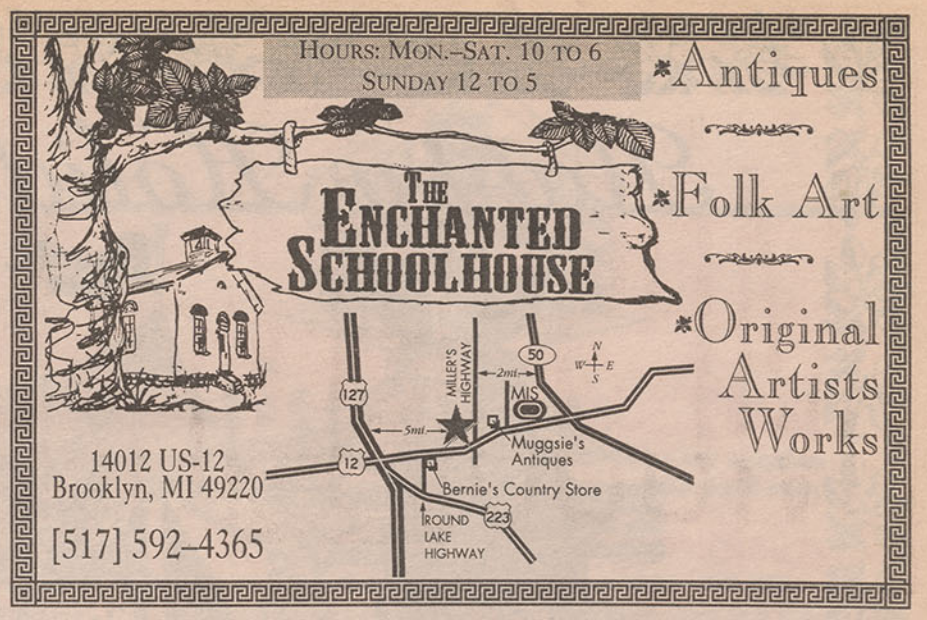
At 16 Hands, I ran across some Aluminum Haricot Bean Pens: shiny metal pens shaped like slightly lumpy French green beans. They have a nice weight, feel good in hand, and write beautifully. Each comes with two refills and costs $26. I also liked the big metal bells near the back of the store. They're made from old oxygen tanks and trailer hitches, cost $154, and make a deep and meaningful sound.

The day I visited Main Street News (now sharing the Elmo's Supershirts space), the store was just four days old. Proprietor Kay Marsh already has an impressive array of magazines (everything from *Town & Country* to *Holy Titclamp)*, comics, and local and out-of-town newspapers and has plans for more. A selection of Michigan books and calendars should be on the racks before the holidays.

On my way south along Main Street, I stopped to peer in an open door at the construction going on at the old Kline's. On the far wall by the dusty staircase were the remnants of an old sign: Children's Department, Lower Level. I used to shop there.

I was in the mood for a waterfall, so I ducked into Terra Bella, where I found some recycled-cotton T-shirts with "Ann Arbor" spelled out in American Sign Language for $19. For those who can no longer abide anything maize and blue, they also have a complete line of organic cotton Michigan T-shirts and sweatshirts in a gentle off-white. Prices vary.

Across the street at Generations, I fell in love with a tot's washable wool sweater and hat set by artist Sue Burns. These will set you back $120, but they're sturdy and bright. Exercise



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Sat 10-5:30

your fingers with some cool bug and bat finger puppets for $4 apiece.

I found some gorgeous women's pullovers at Wilderness Outfitters. By Woolrich, they have a thick, fleecy pile in splendid shades of wine, purple, dark plaid, and in a nice cave painting pattern. They're $80 each.

For several weeks, I've been admiring the fanciful display of blown-glass Christmas ornaments at the Selo Shevel Gallery. Hanging from the skeleton of an umbrella, they come in lots of styles and colors and cost between $18 and $27.

Guess what, mesdames? In response to your repeated requests, Collected Works has at last brought in a big selection of Omsa Italian hosiery. Word is they're unusually comfortable (nylon legs, cotton tops). Prices range from $6.50 (for panties) to $27 (fully pantyhose). I coveted the Blue Fish bathrobes along the back wall. Adorned with applique patches, these come in purple, gray, and rose: $292.

Four Directions is airy, serene, and easy on the eyes. It offers lots of Native American goods, including a collection of All One Tribe percussion instruments. My favorite was an octagonal drum decorated with turquoise and black *kokopelli* ("joybringer") symbols, found in many indigenous cultures. It costs $179. Or stuff that stocking with a cactus pencil for $5.

Over at 115 West Washington Street, the two-month-old Pengaro's is living up to its elegant name. Filled with fine cards, stationery, and gift wrap, this pristine little store also has some unusual gift ideas. The Warm Embrace Radiant Body Pillow is a cloth sack filled with millet grain. After two or three minutes in the microwave, it emerges warm and toasty, ready to heat up your bed for half an hour. It can also be frozen into a cold pack. It costs $33.75.

There's plenty of invigorating shopping to be done in the **State Street** area this season. I started out at Van Boven's, where I found a fascinating display of ties—really. The bright geometric patterns of this neckwear replicate the actual molecular structures of various alcoholic drinks: White Russians, red wine, beer, etc. Best of all, a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the ties, part of the Molecular Expressions line, go to Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Each costs $30.

I stopped in at the Clay Gallery in Nickels Arcade and was immediately smitten with a plate by legendary Ann Arbor ceramist J. T. Abernathy. It features a Calderesque red and black face on a white background and costs $75. And check out the great, nubby-textured cotton sweaters in the window at Chris Triola. They're $245 each.

The survivalist–cafe maven in your life will appreciate the Mini Espresso Maker at Bivouac for $22.50. Explore the tiny Secreto Tropical in the basement of Bivouac for great buys on Third World clothes and crafts, including a line of erotic art pottery from Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil for $12–$25.

Shaman Drum Books has some really unusual titles to choose from, including *Women on Ice: Feminist Essays on the Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan Spectacle,* edited by Cynthia Baughman ($16.95).

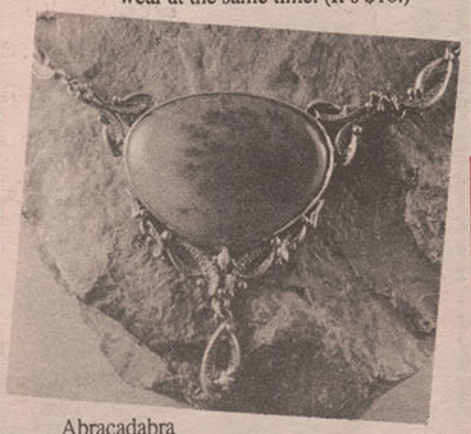
The way I see it, all shower curtains should be iridescent, and Urban Outfitters has a nicely shimmering selection for $28 apiece. Also, Barbie keychains for $6 and lots of other stuff, and loud music, too.

Kaleidoscope Books and Collectibles is like twenty-five grandmas' attics all together: toys, games, steamy paperbacks from days gone by. You might want to peruse the collection of rare postcards satirizing the women's suffrage movement, including one in which a well-dressed woman is planting a wet one on the lips of an unsuspecting gent. The caption: "Suffrage Vote-Getting—The Easy Way." It's $25.

The collector of tiny buildings on your gift list will appreciate the wooden miniatures of several Chelsea buildings available at Made in America for $15 and $16.

Prepping for holiday entertainment? Grab a package of PeasantMats at John Leidy on Liberty Street. These crinkly, colored, wax-coated paper placemats are casually elegant and can be wiped off and reused. They're $10 a dozen.

It's always fun to stop in at Understatements (Liberty near Fifth) where it's not unusual to hear clerks purr, "The white chocolate handcuffs? Oh, they're eight dollars." I would consider getting wrapped up in "T's for Two"—a T-shirt built for two close friends to wear at the same time. (It's $18.)



Abracadabra

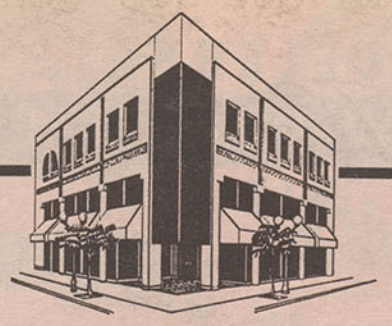
Jewelry and Gem near the corner of Liberty and Fourth has beautiful handcrafted jewelry. I was irresistibly drawn to a magnificent pendant made of moss agate (mined in the Ural Mountains of Russia), silver, and two tiny dots of turquoise, created by Alex Gulko. It retails for $400. This store also has created gold and silver pins, pendants, and dog tags for the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Proceeds benefit this worthy organization.

As I passed by, I noticed that King's Keyboard House has quite a nice line of piano socks for $5–$10.

Kilwin's has some killer chocolate assortments. The Hostess, at $19.95 (no tax on chocolate, the owner reminded me), has just about everything from chocolate-covered pretzels to truffles. Designer toothbrushes, by the door, cost $5.25 and make a lot of sense.

The Conservatory on West Liberty has gorgeous bronze keychains made from the keyholes of antique locks ($16.50) and a basket full of wonderful, crinkly mulberry wrapping paper from Thailand. At $4.75 a roll, it's a steal and guarantees elegant looking presents.

Around the corner on **Ashley Street,** Hertler's has the quintessential holiday must-have: German pickle ornaments for your tree. They're guaranteed to bring good luck, and they sell for around $5. Just goes to show, there's something for everybody. ❄



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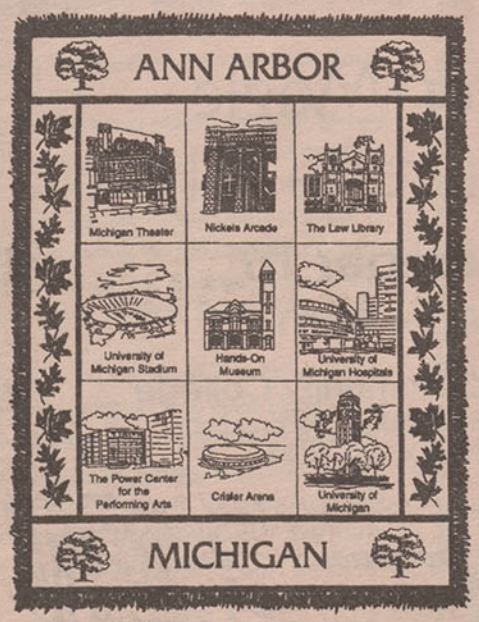

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$2 admission • under 10 free • door prizes

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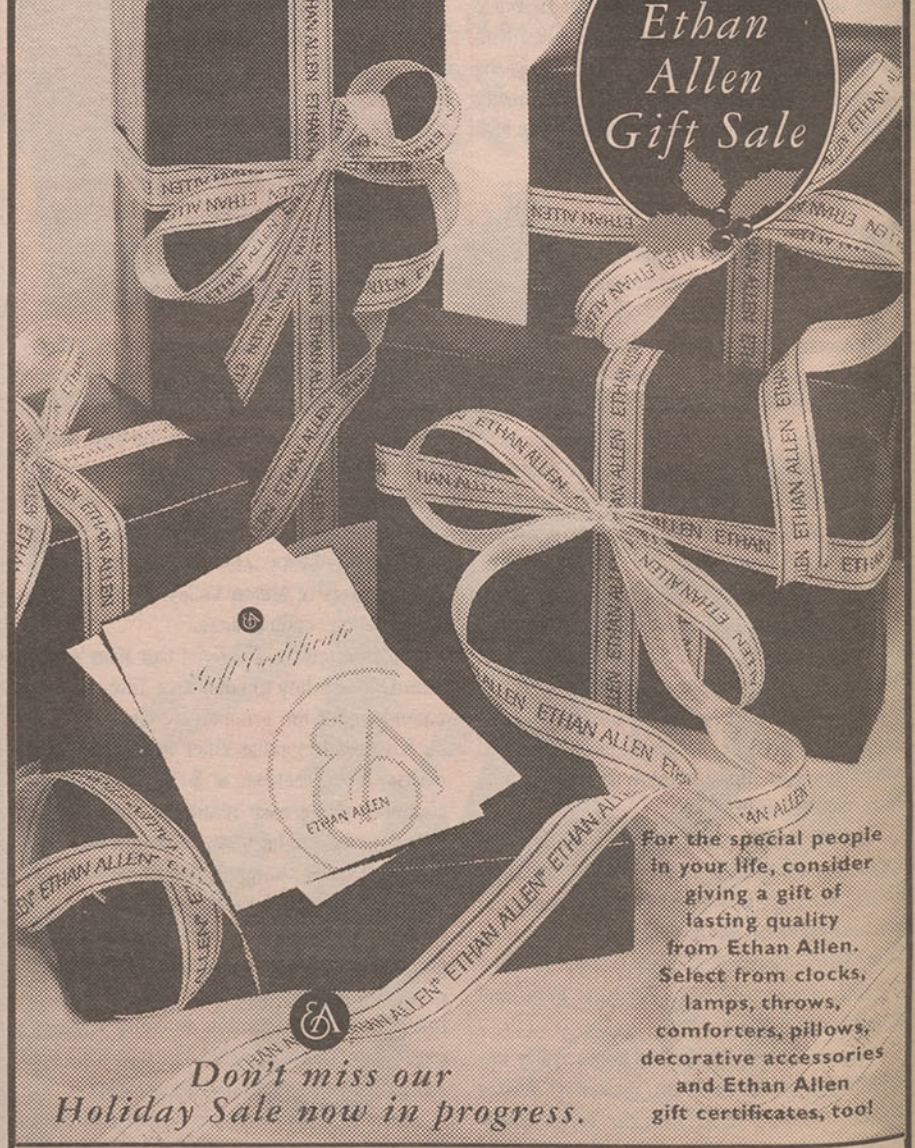

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Holiday Calendar

1 FRIDAY

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations, children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, hardware, appliances, boots, coats, and lots of good-quality furniture. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665–0450.*

★**13th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** Also, December 2–4. *See review at right.* One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit features creches (Nativity scenes) from 70 countries collected by women of the church. Today: a **Christmas concert** (7:30–8:30 p.m.) with vocal and instrumental music. *10 a.m.–9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665–7852, 668–2477, 663–3699 (days).*

"Festival Arts of Western Africa: The Roots of Kwanzaa": ArtVentures Studio (Ann Arbor Art Center). Daily (except Mondays). Visitors of all ages are invited to make art projects associated with African festivals. The center offers extended holiday hours beginning December 26. Also, the annual **Holiday Magic** gift-making workshops for kids ages 6–12 are offered December 2, 3, 9, & 10 ($16; preregistration required). *1–5 p.m. (Tues.–Fri.), 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.), & noon–5 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Extended holiday hours, Dec. 26–Jan. 7: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Sat. & noon–5 p.m. Sun. Admission $4 per hour (for a maximum of 2 hours); groups of 10 or more, $3 each. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Adults assisting a child admitted free. 994–8004.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** Nightly through December 31. Ypsilanti's Riverside Park is transformed into a wintry fantasia by more than 50,000 lights on trees and in illuminated displays. Every year, more than 150,000 visitors walk or drive through the park. Also, horse-drawn wagon rides on Saturdays. *6–10 p.m., Riverside Park, off Cross St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4444.*

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. Nightly through December 31. Some 800,000 lights are used to decorate the trees and grounds of Domino's Farms in this annual holiday show. Tonight (weather permitting), a **Balloon Glow** featuring numerous illuminated hot-air balloons. New this year: a 40-foot **creche** design and a **laser light show.** Also, a **Living Nativity** complete with live animals, an indoor **Festival of Trees,** and a **creche display** of more than 200 Nativity scenes from around the world collected by Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan. Refreshments and live entertainment every night (tonight, a barbershop quartet). Proceeds benefit area charities. *Nightly 6–10 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). $7 minimum donation per vehicle ($50 per bus). 668–1800.*

★**8th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea.** This holiday festival includes a **Tree of Lights Ceremony** (6:30 p.m., Pierce Park) with music and entertainment by the Chelsea Area Players and the Chelsea High School band and choir; **Santa's Workshops** (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea UAW Hall & Village Mall); a **Living Creche** (7–8:30 p.m., corner of South Main and Orchard); and an **All Community Sing** (9–9:30 p.m., Chelsea Depot), with announcement of awards for best-decorated homes and businesses. Also, throughout the evening, strolling carolers, hayrides, and special sales and open houses at downtown businesses. *6:30–9:30 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1171, 475–8792.*

"Midnight Madness!" Most stores in the Main Street, State Street, South University, and Kerrytown shopping areas are open tonight until midnight to kick off the downtown holiday shopping

Nativity scenes

PETER MATTHEWS

The Mormons' creche display

Jesus comes in every color

The annual creche display at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Green Road is a popular Ann Arbor Christmas tradition. It's also a spontaneously accumulated and flat-out fascinating collection of religious folk art.

This exhibit of worldwide variations on Nativity scenes had its beginnings thirteen years ago with a display of about fifty creches at a church Christmas party. Most of the creches in that original display belonged to Betsy Christensen, a church member who had bought her first creche as a gift for her parents while she was traveling in Switzerland as a high school student. That first display was much admired at the church, and within a few years several other church members had begun to acquire creches wherever they traveled.

Now there are about 700 creches in all, although, says volunteer Martha Bowman, no one has had time lately to count them. When you enter, you circulate through a series of rooms in which creches are grouped by country and region. For me, the high point was the French room, where I found an example of the *santon* ("little saint") displays traditionally mounted in Provencal churches. On a multilevel scaffold are arrayed dozens of clothed clay figures representing a whole cast of village characters. Tradesmen and market women, criminals and fools—all follow the Magi in bringing gifts to the infant Christ. It's like a Brueghel painting in three dimensions, homemade by French town artisans.

The church's large meeting hall is filled with one-of-a-kind creches laid out on long rows of tables surrounding a giant Christmas tree. The listing of materials used in the creches runs to poster length: cornhusks and birch bark turn up along with wood, porcelain, and glass; one northwestern American artist molded the whole scene out of steely-gray Mount Saint Helens volcanic ash. The friendly beasts attending an Australian Nativity are wombats and koala bears. And the newborn infant comes in every color from black to brown, yellow, and white. Scenes are carved into candles, painted on eggshells, squeezed onto pinheads. The depth, variety, and creativity are dizzying.

For some reason, many Ann Arborites stay away from this extraordinary event. Maybe they view creches as gift-shop commonplaces, or maybe it's because of the Mormons' reputation for proselytizing. But the enthusiastic hostesses were keen to assure me that the display wasn't a church service. Visitors of any faith—or none at all—will find this exhibit wonderfully uncommon and down-to-earth. The creches are on display again this year at the Mormon church at 1385 Green Road, December 1–4.

—James M. Manheim

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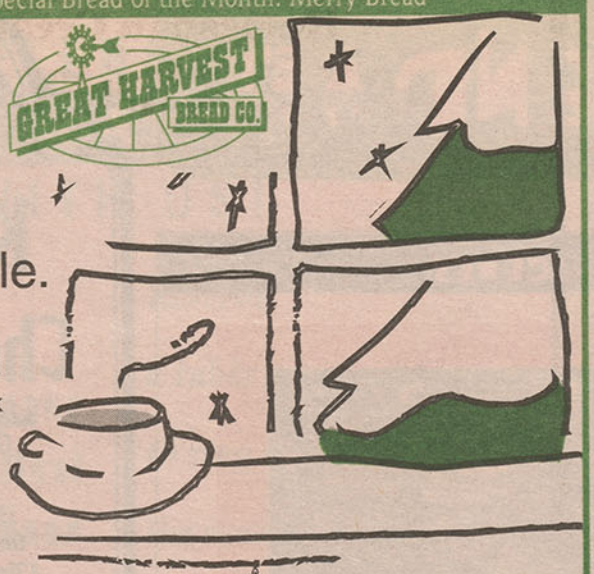

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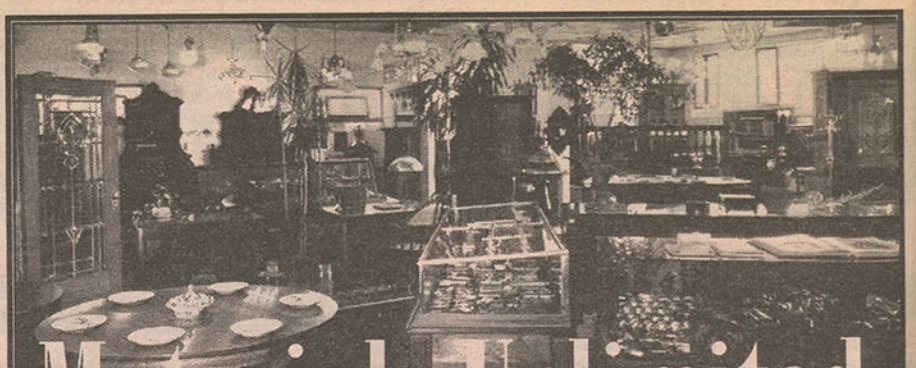

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season. Also, beginning tonight, various musical ensembles stroll the streets giving brief performances every Friday until Christmas. *7 p.m.–midnight, downtown Ann Arbor.*

★Annual Christmas Caroling Party: Kempf House. Everyone is welcome to join an old-fashioned carol sing and stroll through the streets of downtown Ann Arbor. Warm up around the Kempf House's historic piano before hitting the streets with a Salvation Army instrumental trio. Afterward, return to Kempf House for hot mulled cider and cookies. Songbooks provided for all carolers. *7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.*

Handel's "Messiah"
Hill Auditorium
Dec 2 and 3

"Amahl and the Night Visitors": James Sewell Ballet (EMU Office of Campus Life). This Minneapolis-based troupe performs the regional premiere of artistic director Sewell's adaptation of Gian-Carlo Menotti's popular Christmas opera, a 55-minute dance version that employs several styles of movement, including the gestural style of American Sign Language. The cast includes 8–10 additional dancers from EMU and area high school and dance studios. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets $9–$15 (children under 12 & seniors, $7–$13; EMU students, half price) in advance at all TicketMaster outlets and at the door. To charge by phone, call 487–1221 or (810) 645–6666.*

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. Also, December 2 & 7–9. Ted Badgerow directs this local company in Mark St. Germain's and Randy Courts's musical based on two short stories by O. Henry. The title story is the heartwarming tale of an impoverished young married couple who each sacrifice a most precious possession in order to buy the other a Christmas gift. Proceeds benefit Hope Clinic. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. $12.50 (general), $9.50 (students), & $7.50 (seniors & children). Dinner packages available. For reservations, call 995–1797.*

2 SATURDAY

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. See 1 Friday. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Festival: Rudolf Steiner School. Handmade ornaments, wreaths, dolls, wooden toys, and more, made by school parents according to Rudolf Steiner's educational principles. Also, a children's activity corner where kids can make gifts to take home. Caroling and live music performances through the day. *9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995–4141.*

"Holiday Ornaments the Natural Way": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads participants in making an assortment of holiday decorations using materials gathered outdoors. *10 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426–8211.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. Also, December 3. A popular annual sale held indoors and outdoors in a heated tent. Offers a diverse range of functional and sculptural ceramics by local artists, in high-fired stoneware, porcelain, and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 201 Hill St. Free admission. 663–4970.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor Public Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new. Proceeds to support library projects. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 994–2333.*

★13th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★4th Annual "Art Day in Ann Arbor": Washtenaw Council for the Arts. Also, December 3. A celebration of Ann Arbor's rich and varied visual arts community. Many downtown galleries have special exhibits this weekend, and a dozen private studios are open to the public. Includes craft demonstrations and the annual Children's Holiday Parade on Sunday. Also, don't miss the Potters Guild sale (see listing above). Noon–5 p.m., various locations. *Maps available at the WCA and other downtown galleries. For information, call 996–2777.*

Comet the Reindeer: Dixboro General Store. Also, December 9, 16, & 23. *See Inside Ann Arbor, p. 13.* A real live reindeer helps set the tone for the season at this charming old-fashioned crafts store with visits every Saturday until Christmas. A chance to get up close and friendly with one of Santa's helpers. *Noon–4 p.m., Dixboro General Store, 5206 Plymouth Rd. just east of Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 663–5558.*

★Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. Also, December 3. This mid-19th-century pioneer homestead is decked out with Victorian-style greenery and decorations and a feather Christmas tree. Music played on an authentic melodeon, cooking demonstrations on an antique wood-heated stove, hot cider and cookies, and a chance to explore the farm grounds and barn. Also, sale of old-fashioned gifts such as handmade toys and sleigh bells. Dress for snow and cold. *Noon–5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Jackson. (Take I-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) Admission $1 (families, $4). 769–2219, (517) 596–2254.*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. Also, December 3, 9, 10, 16, & 17. Tours of this restored Victorian Greek Revival house, named for the family of German musicians who occupied it at the turn of the century. The house is decorated for Christmas as the Kempfs might have done, and features a Christmas tree decorated with German-style gingerbread cookies. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission $1 (seniors, and children under 12, 50¢). 994–4898.*

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. Also, December 3. This local company of children and adult dancers directed by Marjorie Randazzo and Sara Randazzo-Rodriguez performs Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. *2 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets $8 (children 12 & under, $3) in advance at Norton-Durant Flowers, the Salvation Army, and First Position; and at the door. One free adult ticket with groups of 10 or more children. 994–7074.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the barbershop quartet **Harmony 4 Fun** and the children's choir **Spiritus Sanctus.** 6–10 p.m.

18th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. Also, December 3. A cast of some 175 Concordia students and staff and area children presents this traditional pageant. Originating in medieval England, the Boar's Head festival is a spectacle that combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, set to musical narration and full orchestra. A highlight is the presentation of a roasted wild boar. The ferocious beast came to symbolize Satan, and its slaying represented the triumph of good over evil. A holiday dinner is served before today's performance. This immensely popular event sells out in advance year after year, so get your tickets early. *7:30 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $6 (dinner & performance, $30) in advance at the Kreft Center box office. Phone reservations accepted beginning November 27. For more information, call 995–4612.*

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. Also, December 3. This annual performance of Handel's well-loved religious oratorio has been an Ann Arbor tradition since 1879. Thomas Sheets directs the 250-voice **UMS Choral Union** and members of the **Ann Arbor**

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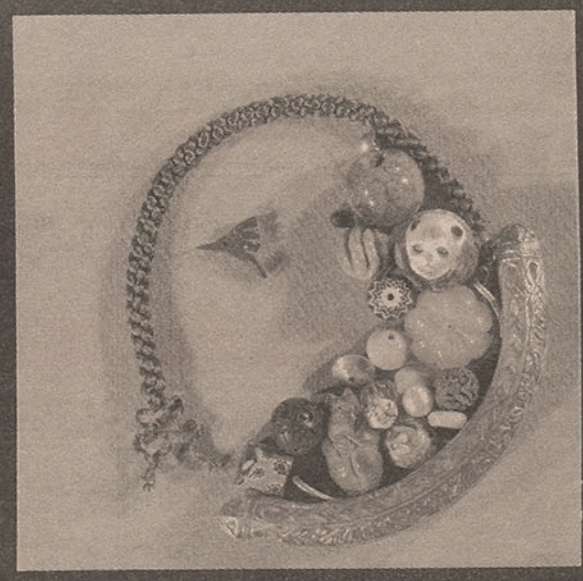
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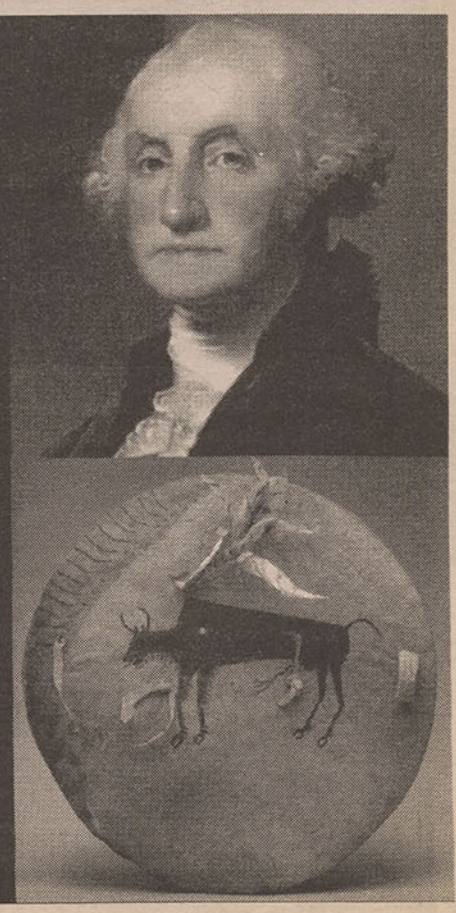

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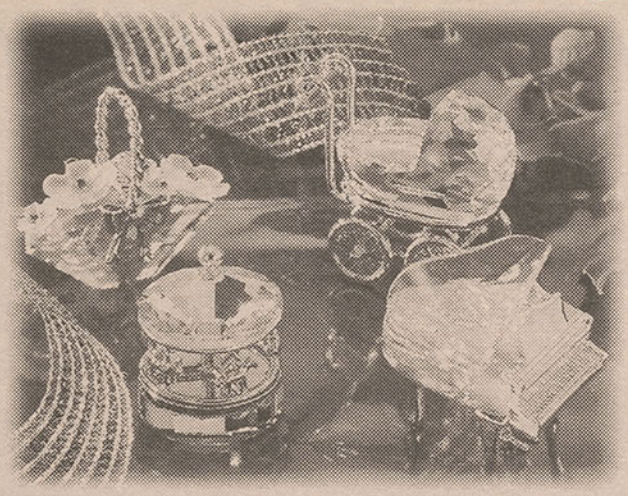

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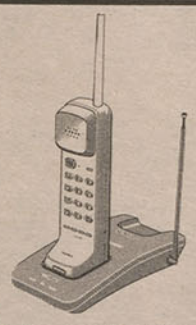

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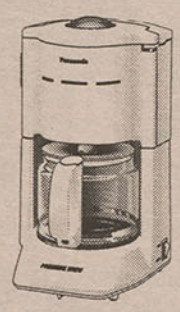

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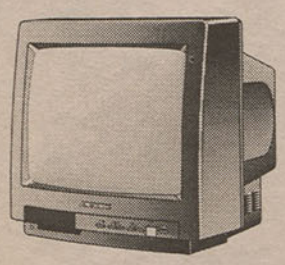

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Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 3

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"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

3 SUNDAY

5th Annual Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis: Arthritis Foundation. People of all ages and fitness levels are welcome to join this festive, lighthearted 5-km run or walk to raise funds for arthritis research. The course begins under the arch at Huron High School and finishes in Gallup Park. An awards ceremony is followed by a chili buffet at Max and Erma's restaurant. All entrants receive a pair of jingle bells for their shoes. Prizes. Participants are encouraged to dress up as elves, reindeer, Santas, snowmen, or what have you and enter a costume contest. *9:30 a.m., Huron High School arch, 2727 Fuller Rd. Registration: $18 in advance, $20 day of race. Teams of 4 or more: $30 each. For more details, call 572–3224.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Hanukkah Bazaar: Beth Israel Sisterhood. Traditional Hanukkah and other holiday gifts. Also, a kids' activity corner and gifts priced for children's budgets. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation social hall, 2000 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663–9897.*

★13th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Friday. Also, today: a **Christmas concert** (3–4 p.m.) with performances by the **Zion Lutheran Handbell Choir.** 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

★"7th Annual Children's Holiday Parade": Main Street Area Association. All kids are invited to join a downtown street parade featuring assorted costumed animal characters, city fire engines, AATA and public school buses, and musicians from area high school marching bands. The parade is led by Mayor Sheldon and Santa Claus. Also, this year, Really Rosie hosts a pre-parade party (11:30 a.m., Michigan Theater) and then leads the kids at her party to the Federal Building to join the parade. Participating children are encouraged to wear costumes, too, and all kids are given kazoos for a kiddie kazoo band. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at the Real Seafood Company, and kids can visit Farmer John's Petting Zoo in the Detroit Edison parking lot. *11:30 a.m. (assemble), noon–12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Bldg., E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Also, December 10. Re-creation of a 19th-century Christmas, with traditional decorations, Christmas caroling, musical entertainment, craft activities for kids, and freshly baked holiday treats. Also, a display of the American Christmas tree from 1844 to 1944. *Noon–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2 (families, $8; children under 3, free). 994–2928.*

★Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. See 2 Saturday. Noon–5 p.m.

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 2 Saturday. 2 & 4:30 p.m.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. See 2 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★Christmas Concert: Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music school dean Willis Patterson directs this local chorus in a program of seasonal music, including spirituals and excerpts from Handel's "Messiah." *5:30 p.m. (tentative time), Bethel A. M. E. Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free. 677–4407.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight, a **Magic Show** by Jeff Scott Walters. 6–10 p.m.

4 MONDAY

★13th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight, a per-

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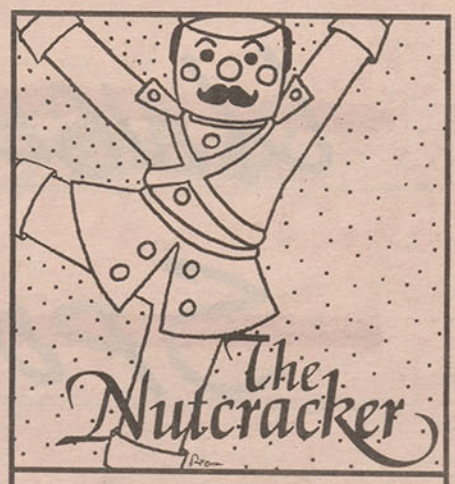

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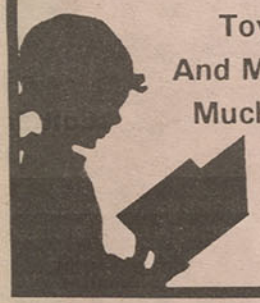

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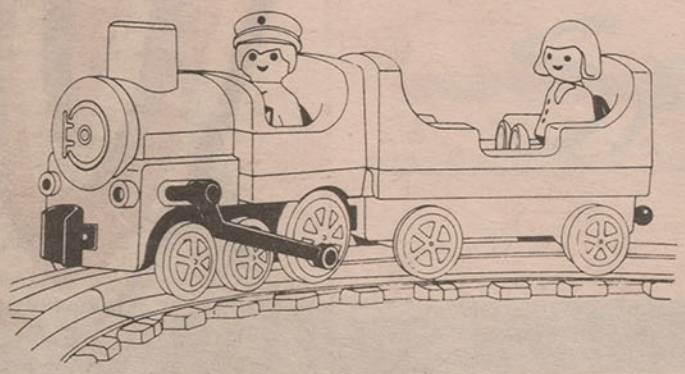

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The display will be closed on December 24.

For more information, call (419) 385-5721. Group rates are available.

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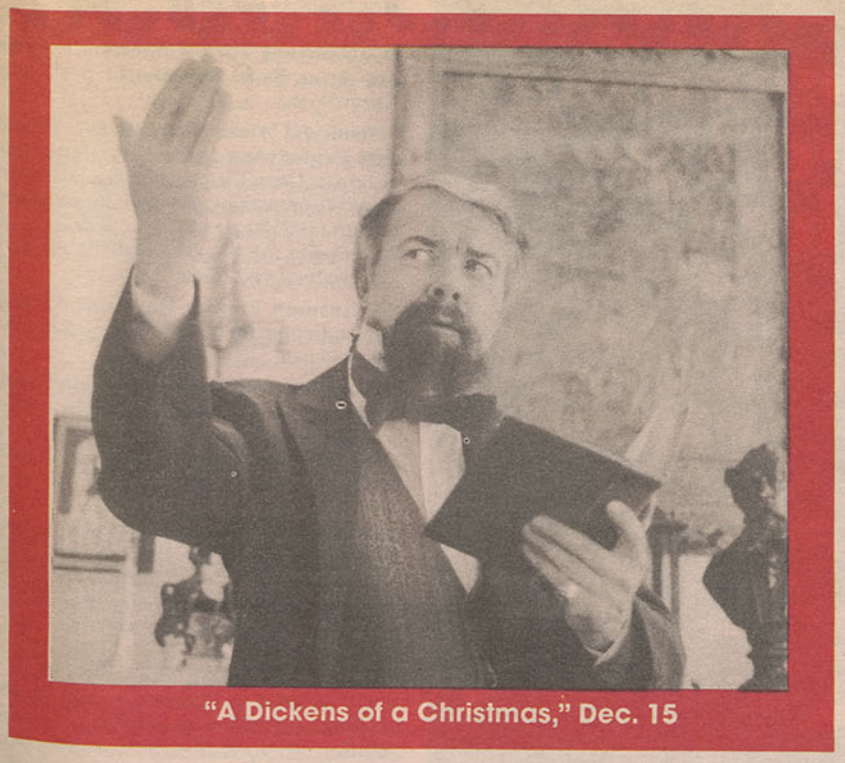

"A Dickens of a Christmas," Dec. 15

formance by **Impact Dance.** 6–10 p.m.

Annual Holiday Craft Auction: First United Methodist Church Co-op Nursery. The popular local Braun and Helmer auction team conducts this auction of handcrafted toys, Christmas and other decorations, baked goods, services, and more. *6:15 p.m. (preview), 7 p.m. (auction), First United Methodist Church social hall, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 662–4536.*

5 TUESDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: storyteller **Patti Meador.** 6–10 p.m.

★Holiday Caroling: Little Professor Book Company. Holiday music performed by members of the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. *7:30 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

Burt Carols Workshop: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Public workshop led by the Burt Carol Singers, a Michigan a cappella sextet formed a few years ago to sing the Burt Carols, a collection of Christmas songs composed in the 1940s by Michigan composer Bate Burt, his son Alfred Burt, and lyricist Wihla Hutson. The carols were written as gifts for family and friends and feature beautiful, unusual harmonies. All welcome. *7:30 p.m., Gretchen's House III, 1745 W. Stadium Blvd. $4. 665–7704, (313) 261–9689.*

6 WEDNESDAY

"Looking Forward to the Holidays": Kitchen Port. Jody Nichols, owner of Nichols Catering and Lindsay's Restaurant, offers tips for decorating a holiday table and shows how to make a Yule log, eggnog, and frosted fruit. *Noon–1 p.m., Kitchen Port (Kerrytown). $5 includes coffee, taste samples, and recipes. 665–9188.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

7 THURSDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **saxophone music.** 6–10 p.m.

★"Pre-Ritual Panic!": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join this local pagan group and learn chants for a December 16 Yule ritual (see listing). *7–9 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–8428.*

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

8 FRIDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the Northeast Senior Center's **Get It All Together Band.** 6–10 p.m.

★"The December Dilemma": Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Roundtable discussion of the difficulties of raising children in multicultural homes. *7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 665–5761.*

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

9 SATURDAY

Comet the Reindeer: Dixboro General Store. See 2 Saturday. Noon–4 p.m.

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the children's choir **Spiritus Sanctus.** 6–10 p.m.

Victorian Holiday Ball: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Vintage ballroom and traditional dances, including waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and country dances. Singles and couples of all abilities are welcome. Mid-19th-century attire encouraged but not required. Cost includes two pre-ball workshops today: a beginners' **quadrille and set dances workshop** (1–2 p.m.) and an advanced workshop on the **mazurka quadrille** (2–4 p.m.). *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (a half-mile south of I-94). $18. Pre-registration required. 429–0014.*

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

10 SUNDAY

★"20th Annual Elmo's Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk": Elmo's Supershirts. More of a tour than a timed run. Meet at the Michigan Theater to divide into small groups, each led by a volunteer "rundeer," for a 45-minute run, jog, or walk through the U-M Diag and Arboretum. The course returns to the Michigan Theater for refreshments, singing, and door prizes. *10 a.m. (registration), 10:15 a.m. (warm-up exercises), 10:30 a.m. (run/walk), Michigan Theater. $1 donation. 994–9898.*

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December 20th –
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HOLIDAY CALENDAR *continued*

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 3 Sunday. Noon–5 p.m.

"Wonderful Winter Decorations": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Naturalist Carol Clements leads a hike to gather materials for making and decorating a grapevine wreath. *1–2:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $3 (families, $10). Preregistration required. 662–7802.*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

31st Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are welcome to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous Christmas oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semi-professionals, serious amateurs, families, church choirs, etc. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Scores are provided, or participants may bring their own. (The "Prout" edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players bring their own stands. *1 p.m. (orchestra reports), 1:15 p.m. (singers report), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665–5964.*

★Ann Arbor Civic Chorus: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art. Rebecca Vlisides directs this local volunteer chorus in seasonal favorites. A popular annual tradition. *1:30 p.m., University Hospital Lobby (1st floor), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★36th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: EMU Music Department. Measure for Measure, a local men's chorus, joins the EMU University Choir, Chamber Choir, and Women's Glee Club to present the Christmas story through a program of alternating text and song adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). *3 & 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Farmer John Barnyard Show.** 6–10 p.m.

Annual Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash: First Unitarian Church. This popular annual tradition features ragtime and traditional jazz from a lineup of top-notch local performers, including pianists **Jim Dapogny** and **Bill Albright** and the piano and vocal duo of **Bill Bolcom** and **Joan Morris.** *8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw. Tickets $10 (students, $6) at the door only. 665–6158.*

11 MONDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** 6–10 p.m.

12 TUESDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **saxophone music.** 6–10 p.m.

13 WEDNESDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Get It All Together Band.** 6–10 p.m.

14 THURSDAY

★Counterpoint: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.

Annual holiday concert by this U-M Hospital employee vocal and instrumental ensemble. Some songs are interpreted in signed English. *12:30 p.m., University Hospital Lobby (1st floor), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Holiday Party: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** All seniors age 55 & older invited to a party featuring a performance by the Huron High School Chorus. *2 p.m., Kellogg Eye Center 20/20 Cafe, 1000 Wall St. Free. Reservations required. 764–2556.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: a demonstration by **Bird Rescue of Huron Valley.** 6–10 p.m.

15 FRIDAY

★**Women's Chamber Chorus.** Gini Robison directs this independent local women's chorus in a program of familiar Christmas carols. *Noon, Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. Free. 677–0678.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the barbershop quartet **Harmony 4 Fun.** 6–10 p.m.

★**"A Dickens of a Christmas": Little Professor Book Company.** Grosse Ile actor-playwright **Mark McPherson** appears as Charles Dickens in a lighthearted re-creation of the Victorian novelist on one of the lecture tours that made him famous in his own time. He reads excerpts from Dickens's classic "A Christmas Carol" and discusses the origins of various Christmas traditions. *7–8:30 p.m., Little Professor Book Company, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

"What Sweeter Music": Vocal Arts Ensemble. MSU choral conducting grad student Margaret Bragle directs this a cappella chorus of 18 area singers in music by Rachmaninoff, Poulenc, and Arvo Part, as well as seasonal madrigals and carols. *8 p.m., Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. (off Washtenaw one block south of Geddes). $9 (students & seniors, $6) in advance or at the door. 996–9635.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. Also, December 16 & 17. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $15 (children, $7) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. Group rates available. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

16 SATURDAY

49th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. Everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small ($5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird. 6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Nancy French at (313) 426–3068. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or 665–7427.*

★**"Coming Home for the Holidays": Women's Aglow Fellowship.** Local members of this women's international organization offer a program of music and drama about Jesus. All welcome. *10–11:30 a.m., Domino's Farms Ulrich Room, Lobby E, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Freewill offering. For information, call Jeannie at 761–1893.*

★**"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company.** Today: Patti Meador tells **Christmas Stories.** *11 a.m., Little Professor Book Company, Westgate Shopping Center, Sta-*

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"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★**Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join a pagan ritual celebrating the winter solstice, with singing, poetry, chanting, and more. *2–5 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 665–8428.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 15 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

★**"Skate with Santa": Ann Arbor Parks Department.** Santa is on hand to skate with kids of all ages and hand out holiday treats. Parents are invited to bring their cameras. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Rink, 2751 Packard Rd. (next to Cobblestone Farm). $2.50 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $2). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 971–3228.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 24 boys in its 9th annual Christmas concert. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so come early for a good seat. *3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $7 (family rates available) in advance and at the door. 663–5377.*

"Sing-Along with Santa and Sam": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO director **Sam Wong** is the pianist and conductor at this hour-long family-oriented concert that includes a holiday carol sing-along with **Santa** and local radio personality **Lucy Ann Lance.** Cider and cookies served. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $5 (children 12 & under), $10 (adults), $25 (families of 6 or fewer), & $50 (patron families). For reservations, call 994–4801.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **Musical Moments.** 6–10 p.m.

"Marae Price and Friends": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. This local singer, dancer, guitarist, and composer is joined by other musicians to be announced for a concert of ancient Celtic and contemporary songs for the Yule season. *7:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. $7 in advance, $8 at the door. 665–8428.*

Gemini with the Galliard Brass Ensemble, Dec. 17

17 SUNDAY

"Santa on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Santa in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. *1–3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $3.25). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 761–7240.*

★**"Tree of Remembrance" Dedication Service: Arbor Hospice.** Dedication of a "tree of

AABT's "The Nutcracker," Dec. 15-17

remembrance" decorated with handmade lace ornaments bearing the names of deceased loved ones. The ecumenical service includes brief talks by Arbor Hospice chaplain Diane Smith and hospice supporters. The tree remains on display at the Kerrytown Shops through the holidays, after which the ornaments are given to family members of the deceased. *1 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. For more information, or to have a memorial ornament made, call 677–0500.*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★Chaverim B'Shirim: Beth Israel Congregation. This local chorus (the name means "friends of song") offers a concert of music by Jewish composers spanning nearly four centuries. Concludes with a family Hanukkah singalong. *2 p.m., Beth Israel, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 663–5543.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 15 Friday. 2 p.m.

14th Annual "Holiday Brass": Galliard Brass Ensemble. A popular annual tradition featuring this local brass quintet led by trumpeter Charles Larkins. The program includes seasonal and popular selections and a carol sing-along. *3 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 301 N. Division. Tickets $10 (adults), $7 (students & seniors), & $5 (children 12 & under), available in advance or at the door. For reservations, call 662–5146.*

"Holiday Festival of Song": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Sam Wong directs the AASO and the **Ann Arbor Cantata Singers** in this holiday family concert. The evening concludes with an audience sing-along led by local arts patron **Judy Dow Rumelhart,** who also reads the perennial favorite, "The Night Before Christmas." *6–8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $15, $20, & $25 (discounts for seniors, students, & children). For reservations or information, call 994–4801.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

★35th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. All invited to join this local Christmas tradition. Congregation members read nine scriptural lessons; each lesson has an associated hymn or carol, some sung by the choir and some by the congregation. *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free, but an offering is taken to benefit the St. Andrew's breakfast program and the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor. 663–0518.*

18 MONDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Burns Park Pipers.** 6–10 p.m.

19 TUESDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Ann Arbor Highlanders.** 6–10 p.m.

20 WEDNESDAY

"Meet Santa": Kid Kingdom. Jolly old Kris Kringle pays a visit to this local play park. *5–7:30 p.m., Kid Kingdom, 2107 W. Stadium. $4.95 (adults & infants under 1, free) includes unlimited play. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 769–1700.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **Dances of India.** 6–10 p.m.

21 THURSDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti

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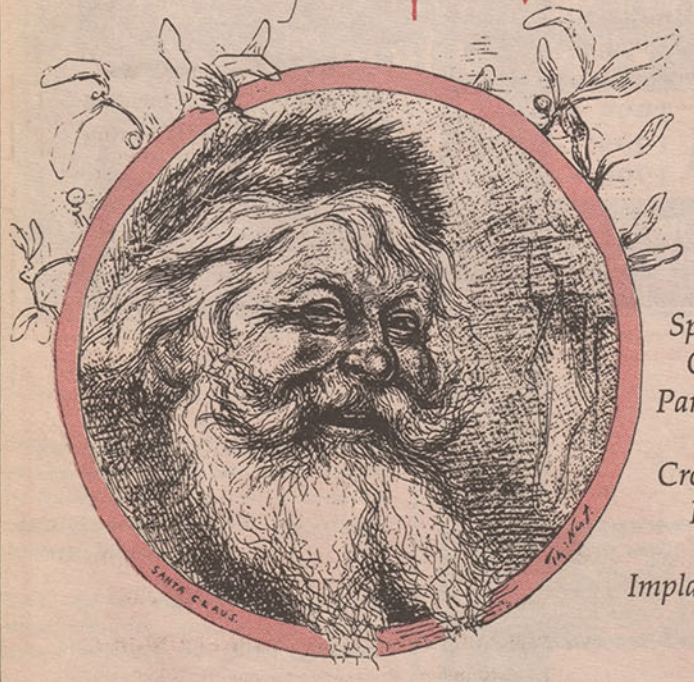

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Light Display at Domino's Farms, through Dec. 31

Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: music by **Calvary Bible Church.** 6–10 p.m.

22 FRIDAY

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Farmer John Barnyard Show.** 6–10 p.m.

"Winter Family Solstice and Hike": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Singing around a campfire with **San Slomovits,** one half of the popular acoustic duo Gemini. The program includes sing-alongs, hand-motion tunes, folktales, and music from around the world. Followed by a candle-lit hike. *7–8:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $4 (families, $12). Preregistration required. 662–7802.*

★**Solstice Party: Magical Education Council of Ann Arbor.** All invited to celebrate the season with pre-Christian and noncommercial traditions. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 761–1137.*

23 SATURDAY

Comet the Reindeer: Dixboro General Store. See 2 Saturday. Noon–4 p.m.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: storyteller **Patti Meador.** 6–10 p.m.

24 SUNDAY

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** Today this local singles group attends a **family Christmas pageant service** presented by young children of the church. *10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**Christmas Eve Concerts: Zion Lutheran Church.** The church offers several special musical programs today featuring choirs, organ, harp, brass, and bells. Includes instrumental music and children's choirs (3 p.m.), and instrumental music and the adult choirs (5 p.m. & 11 p.m.). *3, 5, & 11 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Freewill offering. 994–4455.*

★**"Lessons and Carols": First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's choirs. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. *5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

25 MONDAY

26 TUESDAY

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: a presentation by **Bird Rescue of Huron Valley.** 6–10 p.m.

27 WEDNESDAY

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **Musi-**

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Evening Swim, Snacks, Movie, Games, & Breakfast

First Friday Family Fun Night

Dec. 1, 5:30–9pm • Spaghetti Dinner 6–7:30pm • $7 Family Donation
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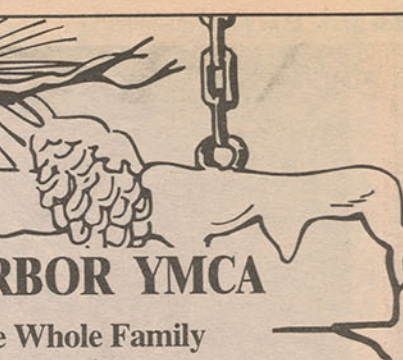

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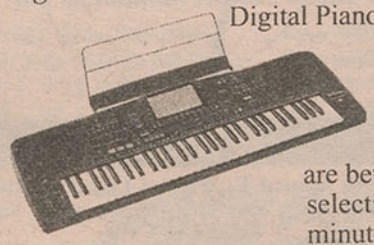

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Ypsilanti Festival of Lights, thru Dec. 31

cal Moments. 6–10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

28 THURSDAY

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: storyteller **Patti Meador.** 6–10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

29 FRIDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

30 SATURDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

31 SUNDAY

4th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. An alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration featuring more than 30 different local entertainment acts running throughout the evening in various locations in and around Ypsilanti's Riverside Park, where the **Festival of Lights** (see 1 Friday) concludes at midnight. Entertainers include comedian and mime **O. J. Anderson,** storytellers **LaRon Williams** and **Barbara Schutz-Gruber,** blues and boogie-woogie pianist **Mark "Mr. B" Braun,** the children's theater company **Wild Swan Theater,** the local rock band **Lucky Haskins,** jazz flutist **Paul Vornhagen, The Raisin Pickers** folk band, rockabilly & blues guitarist **Steve Nardella,** folksinger **Joel Mabus, The Ambassadors** big-band jazz ensemble, choreographer **Peter Sparling** and his company **Dance Theater,** the barbershop quartet **Three Men and a Tenor,** children's musicians **Gemini** and **Sheila Ritter,** and many others. Food concessions. *6:30 p.m.–midnight, various Ypsilanti locations. Admission badges $10 in advance, $15 at the door. Children ages 6–12, $5 (children 5 & under, free). Badges available in advance at Busch's ValuLand stores and the Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention Bureau. A limited number of free badges available to low-income families (call Kathleen Reynolds at 484–6620). For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483–4444.*

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

"New Year's Eve Family Sock Hop Party": Kid Kingdom. Dancing to 50s music and a New Year's Eve countdown and balloon drop (at 10 p.m.). Free noisemakers, punch, and popcorn. *7:30 p.m., Kid Kingdom, 2107 W. Stadium. $5 per person. Reservations required. 769–1700.*

New Year's Eve Overnight: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids from kindergartners through age 11 are invited to enjoy fun and games, a swim, a late-night snack and a movie, and breakfast tomorrow morning. *8 p.m. tonight–9 a.m. tomorrow, Ann Arbor YMCA, 350 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $45 (YMCA members, $35) per child. Reservations required. 663–0536.*

4th Annual New Year's Eve "Jazz Revisited" Concert: Michigan Radio. WUOM radio personality **Hazen Schumacher** and the nationally acclaimed **James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band** led by U-M piano professor Dapogny once again host a swinging evening of jazz and blues to welcome in the New Year. Guest performers are saxophonist and clarinetist **Franz Jackson,** one of the last living musicians from the heyday of Chicago jazz, and vocalist **Carol Leigh,** who specializes in the songs of Bessie Smith and other jazz and blues tunes from the 1920s and 1930s. After the performance, concertgoers can continue the festivities at a party at the Gandy Dancer ($5; space is limited and reservations required). *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets (before December 1) $19 & $23 by calling 764–3434. Beginning December 1, tickets are $23 & $27 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other TicketMaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS or (810) 645–6666.*

Jimmie Dale Gilmore: The Ark. Gilmore is one of the best of a large crop of neo-traditionalist folk-country stars. As a songwriter, he possesses a wonderfully offhand flair for lyrical flights that are sometimes poetic, sometimes unsettling in their extremity, and sometimes both, and he sings with a pinched nasal intensity that can put your nerves pleasantly on edge. *7:30 & 9:30 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Big Dave and the Ultrasonics: Rick's American Cafe. High-powered, brightly polished blues and blues-rock by this popular local band led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Steele. The band is working on the follow-up to its popular debut Schoolkids' CD. *9:30 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $8 (couples, $15) at the door only. 996–2747.*

Frank Allison & the Odd Sox: The Blind Pig. Scruffy, smart-mouthed utopian playground rock 'n' roll by this extremely popular local band led by singer-songwriter (and funny-face maker) Allison. With bassist Chris Noteboom, drummer Rob Hejna, and guitarist Kevin Allison (no relation to Frank). *10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $8 at the door only. 996–8555.*

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Our variety of tree species include:

DOUGLAS FIR
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We offer many sizes from **3 foot tabletops to majestic 14 footers. We also have a fine selection of wreaths–small to large diameter, roping and tree stands.**

Bring in your stand —we are happy to fresh cut, prune and fit your tree to your stand.

This year we are seeking the coolest most festive Holiday outfit. Cool and festive outfits are eligible for discounts. We are the arbiters of your haberdashery.

(We are backwoods clothes horses and members of HASH and Cha³)
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UNDER COVER

Gift wrap and me

Wrap music, wrapid transit, wrapped attention—with all the allusions to it throughout the year, it's positively amazing that each Christmas I'm caught unawares by a snotty little present grinning back at me from its roost on a square of expensive wrapping paper.

"OK, sister," the present sneers, "make me look go-o-o-d. Make me look hot, make me look expensive. Yeah, sweetheart, wrap me up real good and I won't tell a soul you found me at Value Village."

"Shush," I hiss, smothering it in tissue paper to muffle its snickers. A moment later, a shapeless lump sits before me, looking neither go-o-od, nor hot, nor expensive.

Each year, it dawns on me again that I don't know how to wrap. Well, I can wrap, but when I'm done, my gifts look as if they're going to disappoint someone. If I wrap the Gustav Klimt appointment book for my grandmother—the perfect gift for her—it will look, from the outside, as if she's getting *Clyde's Guide to Bait*. If I wrap a brand-new CD, it looks, from the outside, like a used CD. There's no getting around it.

Other folks don't seem to have this problem. They arrive at family gatherings clutching handsome boxes, bound up in arty paper, festooned with ribbons (ribbons with permanents, no less) and all the latest frou-frou. My friend Lisa actually marbelizes all her own wrapping paper. By hand. Using imported Lithuanian ink. I can't compete.

My gifts aren't so lucky. First of all, any wrapping endeavor starts with a forty-five-minute search for the tape, which, when I finally locate it (under the wrapping paper), has about six inches left on the roll, causing me to tear off 1/8-inch pieces with my teeth.

If I actually succeed in covering every surface of present with some kind of substance, rest assured there's nothing symmetrical about it.

This flaw is genetic, I'm convinced.

My mother was pretty good at wrapping. She tried valiantly to teach me the importance of "triangle folds" at each end of a box. "Oh, no! That's too much tape!," she'd cry. "You should be able to wrap a present with only three tiny tabs of tape. Thrift makes the gift!" Ugh.

Dad, on the other hand, was wrap-impaired. I got it from him. Generally, he bought everything at Macy's and had the people there wrap it up for large sums of money (often more than the cost of the gift).

But sometimes, on those ill-advised occasions when he didn't shop at Macy's, he would be forced to essay some wrapping himself—unaided, but not uninspired. Those presents were wrapped, and wrapped effectively. Not a molecule of present was allowed to see the light of day. When he remembered to buy wrapping paper, his technique was to roll the present in

the paper several times, then apply copious amounts of adhesive (tape, caulk, Super Glue, mortar, drywall compound) to every joint.

And then there were the times when buying wrapping paper just wasn't a priority to Dad. Smoked oysters, canned stuffed grape leaves, pickled pigs' feet, yes; wrapping paper, no. When gift giving was more spontaneous, and no paper was to be found, Dad resorted to the ingenuity that typifies most second-generation full-blooded Armenians raised in Appalachia during the Depression.

He got out the tinfoil.

Tinfoil. You can cook with it, make cat toys with it, annoy your fillings with it. And it makes a top-notch wrapping paper. You don't even need tape: it conforms. You don't need shiny ribbon: it shines with the fervor of a nova. It's ecologically sound: you can use it afterward to cover the turkey (then, of course, recycle). Dad was really onto something.

But now, I'm all grown up, facing wrapping challenges of my own.

Undaunted, at 1:30 a.m. on Christmas morn, I begin. This, I've found, is the best time. My head is clear, I'm rested, serene, and confident, and those creative juices are flowing like eggnog. This year, I will wrap with style and assurance. Before me looms a pile of flannel shirts, Barbie dolls, and books (easy to wrap). Also, ceramic colanders, toy lawn mowers, and penguin-sized teddy bears (hard to wrap).

Two hours and twenty-six minutes (and three episodes of "Unsolved Mysteries") later, I'm done.

Arranging the presents 'neath the rapidly defoliating boughs, I discover a shirker—an unwrapped present. I reach for more paper and find only empty cardboard tubes.

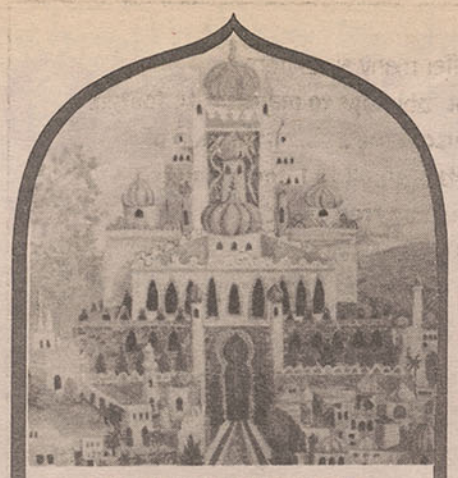
I take a deep breath. I think of Christmas. Father Christmas . . . Dad . . . tinfoil! More wrap-id than eagles, I fly to the kitchen, grab that dear, familiar box, and do the deed.

I nestle the present amongst its brothers and sisters and head for the stairs. It's 6:45 a.m.

Thud. Boomboomboomboomboomboomboomboom. The kids are up. As they say in Tinsel-Town, it's a wrap.

—Kate Conner-Ruben

If you find yourself nodding in tearful recognition as you read this, weep no more: help is available. Many fine area stores will wrap gifts you buy there for free or a small charge. Pengaro's (115 W. Washington) takes this one step further: they'll wrap anything you bring in expertly and for free. You pay only for the paper and ribbon (they have a fine selection). Hudson's at Briarwood also offers a gift wrap service. Fees range from $4.50 to $12 (with an extra $2 for non-Hudson's gifts) and include paper.



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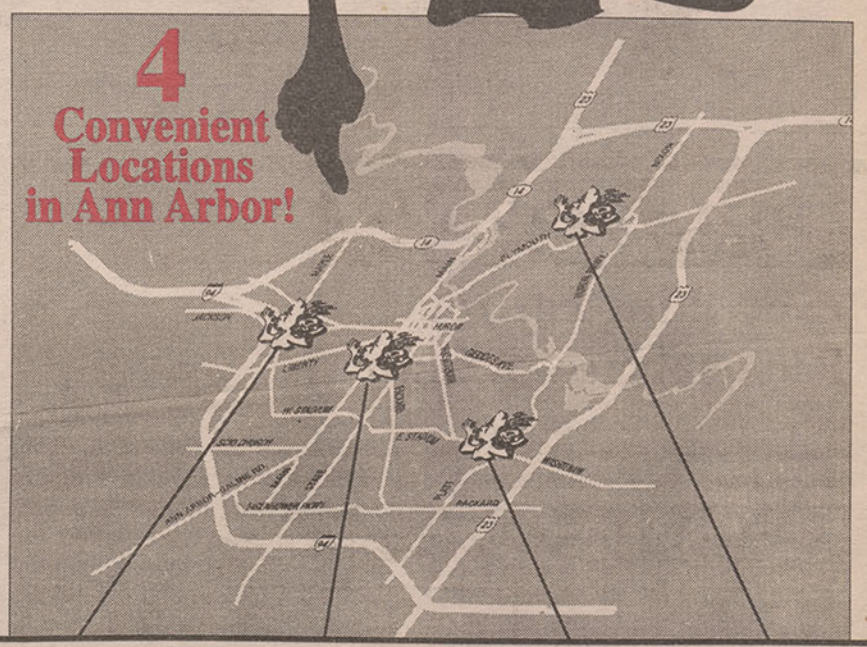

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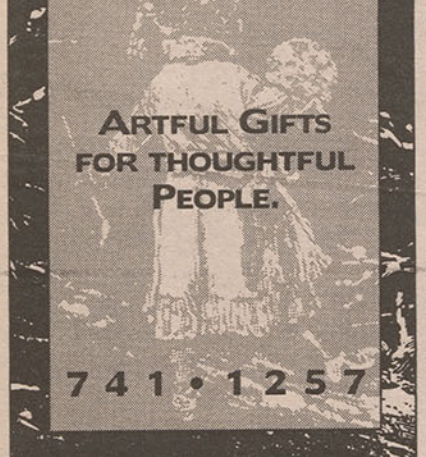

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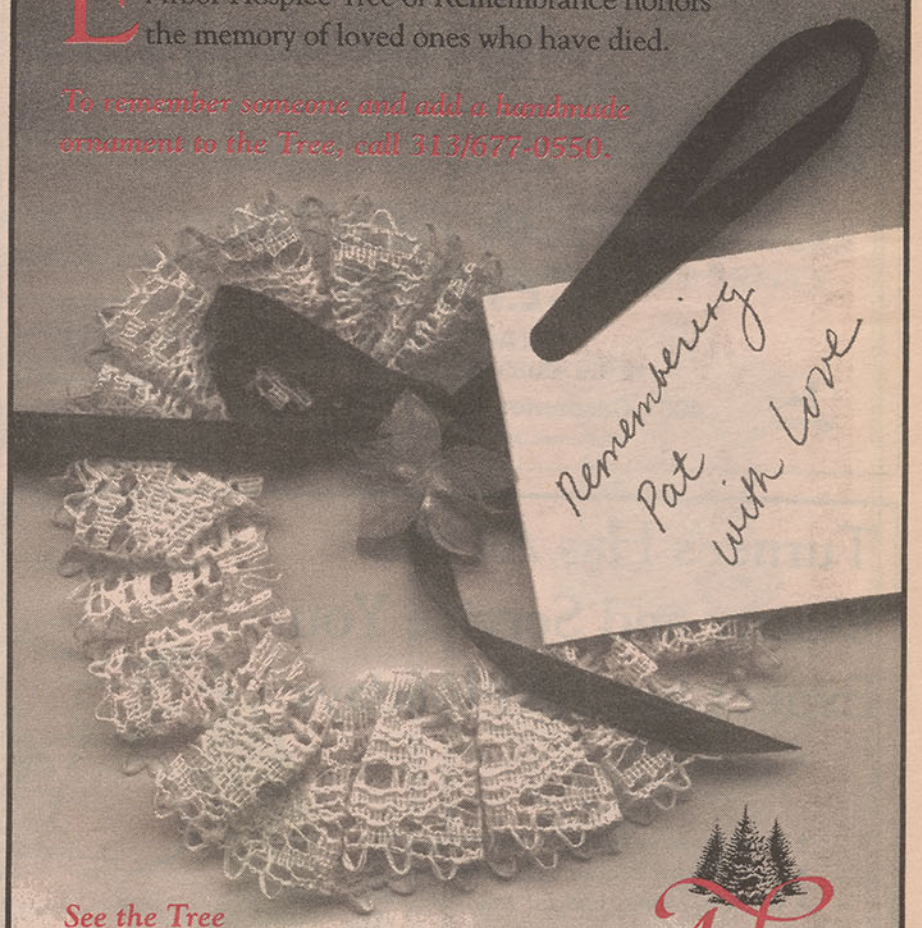
Then & Now

The wintry calm of the U-M campus at Christmas break creates a quiet place in the Ann Arborite's soul. Unofficial city historian Wystan Stevens passed on this set of 1906 hand-tinted color cards published by the Ann Arbor studio of A. S. Lyndon. They suggest that our forebears, too, cherished these images in an age when holiday cards were frillier things.

Each year during the holiday season, the Arbor Hospice Tree of Remembrance honors the memory of loved ones who have died.

To remember someone and add a handmade ornament to the Tree, call 313/677-0550.



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Knox
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(contemporary service)

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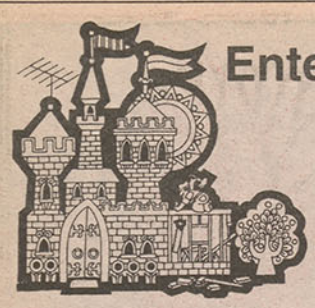

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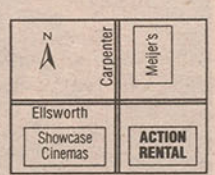

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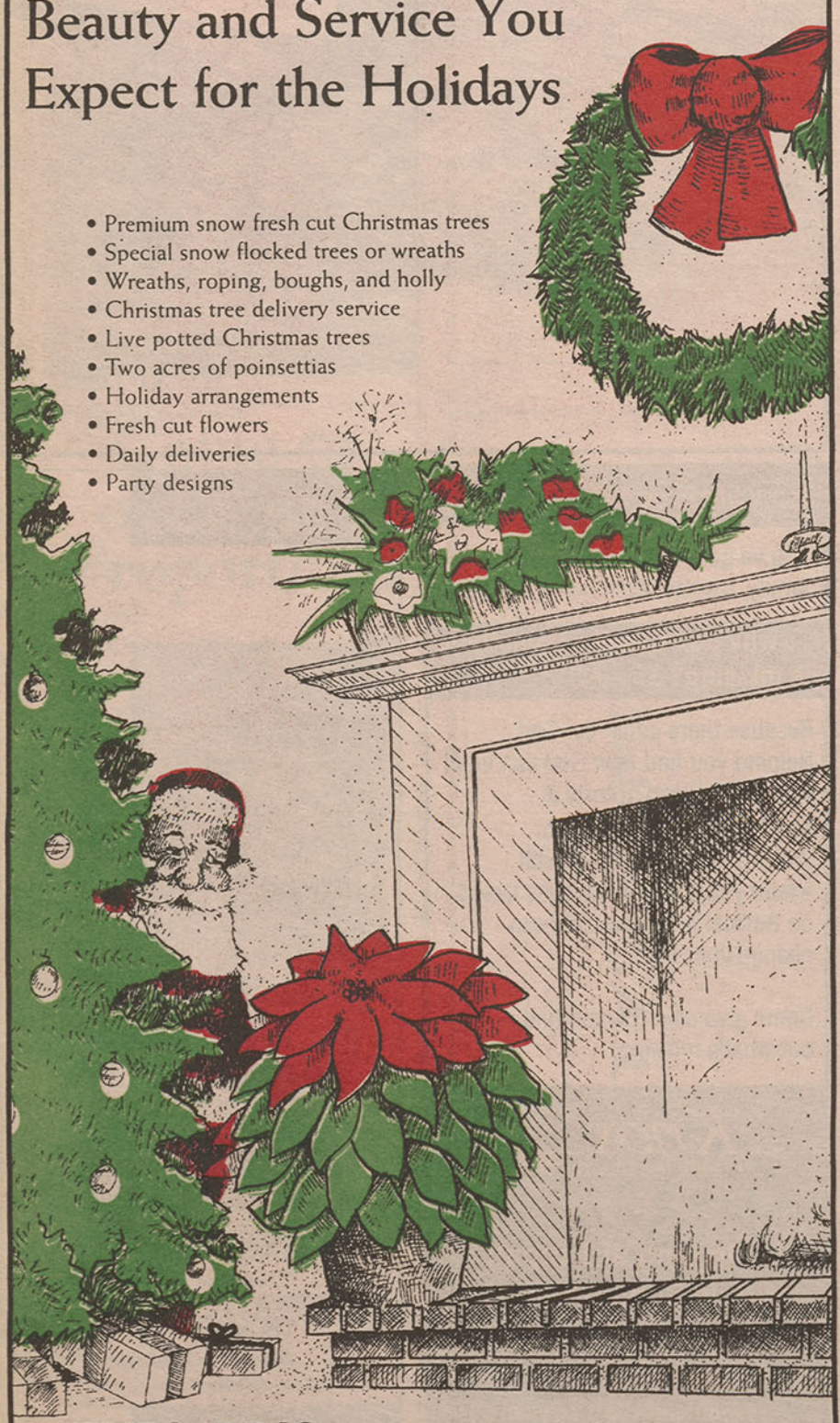

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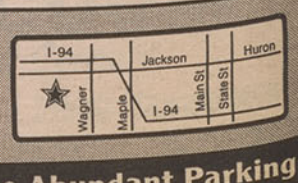

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Cleaning Up

What happens to all those trees?

This past January, the city Solid Waste Department picked up 7,029 Christmas trees from Ann Arbor curbsides. Residents who missed the official pickup interval (for 1996 it's January 15–27) could still, as usual, take their trees to the composting center at Platt and Ellsworth; the city estimates that between 3,000 and 4,000 additional trees were dropped off there. (Hapless procrastinators, hail a kindred soul: a tree once came in during the month of July.) Add up these estimates, and it appears that roughly half the city's single- and two-family households who had trees opted for a thirsty, needle-shedding, real one over a plastic and metal greenery from Hong Kong.

But when your tree reaches the end of its tinselly, evanescent welcome, what happens next? Ann Arbor lives up to its reputation for recycling. "We grind 'em up and turn 'em into mulch," says Solid Waste administrator Ray Ayer. When they reach the composting center, the trees are thrown ten at a time into a "tub grinder," which Ayer describes as "a twelve-foot-wide garbage disposal." The grinder holds about thirty trees and digests them down to a fine mulch.

Ann Arbor gardeners close the circle. Six bushels of recycled holiday cheer are free for the taking; after that it costs $3 a cubic yard. If you want city workers to load the mulch for you, that's $10 extra. The composting center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

By the middle of the spring, all the trees have returned to earth and are ready to support the decorations of a different season. City workers ask that you make sure all ornaments, stands, and plastic bags have been removed from your tree before you set it out. Those things tend to do the same thing to the grinder that a spoon does to your kitchen garbage disposal. And those accustomed to dropping off their trees at Gallup Park are forewarned: the parks department won't accept them anymore.

—James M. Manheim

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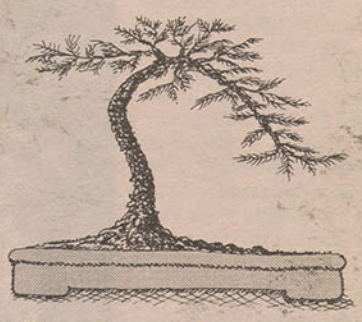

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DECEMBER EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Who to write to:
Mail press releases to John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. (There is an after-hours drop box at the front door.) **NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE, but Faxes are welcome.** Fax numbers are: **769–2147 or 769–3375.**

What gets in?
With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and telephone of a contact person. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (usually the 2nd Friday of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by Saturday, December 9, will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in.

FILM SOCIETIES on and off campus

Basic info:
Tickets $4 unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations for film societies:
AAFC—Ann Arbor Film Cooperative 769–7787. **CCS**—U-M Center for Chinese Studies 764–6308. **CG**—Cinema Guild 994–0027. **CJS**—U-M Center for Japanese Studies 764–6307. **FV**—Program in Film & Video Studies 764–0147. **GH**—German House 764–2152. **HILL**—Hill Street Cinema 769–0500. **IWW**—Industrial Workers of the World. **M-FLICKS**—University Activities Center 763–1107. **MTF**—Michigan Theater Foundation—$6 (children, students, & seniors, $5; MTF members, $4). 668–8480.

Abbreviations for locations:
AAPL—Ann Arbor Public Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. **AH-A**—Angell Hall Auditorium A. **Chrysler**—Chrysler Center Auditorium, 2121 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. **EQ**—Room 126 East Quad, East University at Hill. **German House**—603 Oxford at Geddes Ave. **Hillel**—Green Auditorium, Hillel Foundation, 1429 Hill St. **IWW**—International Workers of the World headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. **Lorch**—Lorch Hall (Old Architecture Building), Tappan at Monroe. **Mich.**—Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty. **MLB**—Modern Languages Building, E. Washington at Thayer. **Nat. Sci.**—Natural Science Building, 830 North University at Thayer.

★ *Denotes no admission charge.*

1 FRIDAY

Benefit Art Sale: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art. Pottery, watercolors, dolls, painted silk, calligraphy, enameled copper, jewelry, prints, wood boxes, clocks, and more by local artisans. Partial proceeds benefit the hospital's "Gifts of Art" program for patients. *8 a.m.–6 p.m., University Hospital Lobby (1st floor), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free admission. 936–ARTS.*

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. Also, December 2. This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations (artificial Christmas trees, tested sets of tree lights, candles, etc.), all sorts of children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, hardware, appliances, boots, coats, and lots of good quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665–0450.*

★**13th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** Also, December 2–4. *See review, p. 83.* One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit features almost 700 creches (Nativity scenes) from 70 countries collected or designed by women of the church. It features rooms devoted to miniature creches and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, cornhusks, and paper, and styles range from simple childlike figures to hand-carved traditional figures to elegant original designs. They range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to creches with 18-inch figures. The popular 11-inch French santon exhibit has been expanded with several new figures, and the Santon exhibit now includes several different sizes of creches. Also, a Christmas tree decorated with handmade ornaments. Today's program includes a **Christmas concert** (7:30–8:30 p.m.) with vocal and instrumental music by church performers to be announced. *10 a.m.–9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665–7852, 668–2477, 663–3699 (days).*

★**"Colliding Ecologies: Indigenous Peoples and Mining in the Pacific": U-M Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies.** Talk by U-M visiting anthropology professor Stuart Kirsch. *Noon, Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–0352.*

"Festival Arts of Western Africa: The Roots of Kwanzaa": ArtVentures Studio (Ann Arbor Art Center). Daily (except Mondays). Visitors of all ages are invited to make art projects associated with African festivals. This month's projects include Kente cloth of the Asante (Ghana), animal gold weights (Ghana), Chi Wara antelope headdresses of the Bamana (Mali), and beaded crowns of the Yoruba (Nigeria). The center offers extended holiday hours beginning December 26. Also, the annual **Holiday Magic** gift-making workshops for kids ages 6–12 are offered December 2, 3, 9, & 10 ($16; preregistration required). *1–5 p.m. (Tues.–Fri.), 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.), & noon–5 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Extended holiday hours, Dec. 26–Jan. 7: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Sat. & noon–5 p.m. Sun. Admission $4 per hour (for a maximum of 2 hours); groups of 10 or more, $3 each. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Adults assisting a child admitted free. 994–8004.*

★**"The Environmental Connection: Rising Rates of Breast Cancer, Reproductive Disorders, and Children's Diseases": Ecology Center.** Well-known political activist and former New York congresswoman **Bella Abzug** moderates a public hearing on the growing body of scientific evidence showing the effects of pollution on human health. Followed by a reception featuring a talk by Breast Cancer Fund founder and director **Andrea Martin.** A related conference is held tomorrow at Washtenaw Community College (see 2 Saturday listing). *4–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 761–3186, 663–2400.*

★**"Passages": Alexa Lee Gallery.** Opening reception for this exhibit of new works by Boston artist Cynthia Nartonis, whose monotype prints convey the rich impasto of oil paintings. *5–8 p.m., Alexa Lee Gallery, 201 Nickels Arcade (above the Post Office). Free. 663–8800.*

★**Yiu Keung Lee and Todd Cashbough: U-M Slusser Gallery.** Opening reception for an exhibit of ceramics and paintings by these two U-M art students. *5:30–9 p.m., U-M Slusser Gallery, U-M Art & Architecture Bldg., 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 764–0397.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** Nightly through December 31. Ypsilanti's Riverside Park is transformed into a wintry fantasia by more than 50,000 lights on trees and in illuminated displays. Every year, more than 150,000 visitors walk or drive through the park. Also, horse-drawn wagon rides on Saturdays. *6–10 p.m., Riverside Park, off Cross St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4444.*

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. Nightly through December 31. Some 800,000 lights are used to decorate the trees and grounds of Domino's Farms in this annual holiday show. Tonight (weather permitting), a **Balloon Glow** featuring numerous illuminated hot-air balloons. New this year: a 40-foot **creche** design and a **laser light show.** Also, a **Living Nativity** complete with live animals, an indoor **Festival of Trees** featuring decorated Christmas trees, and a **creche display** of more than 200 Nativity scenes from around the world collected by Domino's Pizza founder

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure, Dec. 5 & 6

Judy Collins, Dec. 7

CALENDAR

GALLERIES

135 EXHIBIT OPENINGS — *Jennifer Dix*

135 GALLERY REVIEW
Moby-Dick and American Art — *Keith Taylor*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

151 NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE — *John Hinchey*

151 NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW
Mondo Mod: Teen party masterpieces — *Wendy Case*

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Waiting games — *Leslie Stainton*

119 DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS'S "ROBIN HOOD"
The epitome of a swashbuckler — *Dan Moray*

121 SAVING THE QUEEN
The U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society — *Leslie Stainton*

125 VIOLINIST GIL SHAHAM
Stunningly talented — *Jim Leonard*

129 ALISON KRAUSS
The Patti Page of bluegrass — *James M. Manheim*

131 THE COMMUNITY "MESSIAH" SING
A Christmas gift to ourselves — *Mary Carlson-Mason*

149 A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN
Jim Dapogny and Franz Jackson celebrate — *Piotr Michalowski*

176 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Bob Margolin, Dec. 4

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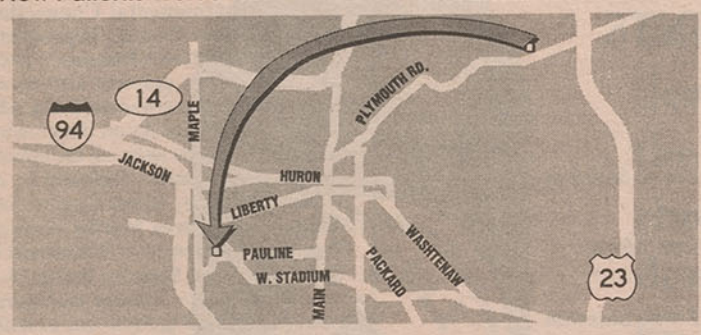

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Tom Monaghan. Refreshments and live entertainment every night (tonight, a barbershop quartet). Proceeds benefit area charities. *Nightly 6–10 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). $7 minimum donation per vehicle ($50 per bus). 668–1800.*

★**8th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea.** This holiday festival includes a **Tree of Lights Ceremony** (6:30 p.m., Pierce Park) with music and entertainment by the Chelsea Area Players and the Chelsea High School band and choir; **Santa's Workshops** (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea UAW Hall & Village Mall); a **Living Creche** (7–8:30 p.m., corner of South Main and Orchard); and an **All Community Sing** (9–9:30 p.m., Chelsea Depot), with announcement of awards for best decorated homes and businesses. Also, throughout the evening, strolling carolers, hayrides, and special sales and open houses at downtown businesses. *6:30–9:30 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1171, 475–8792.*

★**"Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities": World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil and March.** Remarks by U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Rivers and others, followed by a candle lighting ceremony on the steps of the Michigan Union and a march through downtown Ann Arbor in recognition of those who have died in the AIDS epidemic. *6:30 p.m. Meet at the Michigan Union Anderson Room. Free. For more information, call 572–9355.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Ann Arbor Highlanders.** Every Friday. Men and women of all ages and levels of ability are invited to join this local Scottish pipe and drum ensemble to learn a parade and competition repertoire for performances at concerts, weddings, funerals, and other occasions. *6:30 p.m., Allen School, 2560 Towner Blvd. (off Easy St. from Packard just east of Buhr Park). Free. For information, call James Belcher at (313) 783–4655 (days) or (313) 587–2415 (eves.).*

"Midnight Madness!" Most stores in the Main Street, State Street, South University, and Kerrytown shopping areas are open tonight until midnight to kick off the downtown holiday shopping season. Also, don't miss the Kempf House caroling party (see below). Also, beginning tonight, various musical ensembles stroll the streets giving brief performances every Friday until Christmas. *7 p.m.–midnight, downtown Ann Arbor.*

★**Annual Christmas Caroling Party: Kempf House.** Everyone is welcome to join an old-fashioned carol sing and stroll through the streets of downtown Ann Arbor. Warm up around the Kempf House's historic piano before hitting the streets with a Salvation Army instrumental trio. Afterward, return to Kempf House for hot mulled cider and cookies. Songbooks provided for all carolers. *7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.*

★**Motivational Speaker: P.O.I.S.E.** Every Tuesday afternoon & Friday evening. Twice-weekly motivational programs presented by this local nonprofit organization for large-sized men and women. This month's topics to be announced. *7–9 p.m. (Fridays), Reichert Health Bldg. Arbory Lounge, 5301 E. Huron River Dr.; 1–2:30 p.m. (Tuesdays), Carpenter Place Activities Room, 3400 Carpenter Rd. Free. 741–1045.*

Monthly Meeting: Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in simple dancing to chants and songs from various spiritual and religious traditions. Beginners welcome. *7–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. $5 requested donation. For information, call Majid at 913–8852 or Barb at 971–8562.*

Family Fun Night: Swing City Dance Studio. Also, December 8 & 15. All ages and abilities invited to learn dances in a fun and relaxed setting. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Tonight: **Disco Night.** *7–8:30 p.m., Swing City Dance Studio, Colonial Lanes Plaza, 1960 South Industrial. $3 (individuals) & $5 (families). 668–7782.*

"Male/Female Relationships": Ann Arbor Practical Psychic Institute. Talk by **John Friedlander,** co-author of *The Practical Psychic* and a member of Jane Roberts's original Seth channeling group. Friedlander also channels Seth and takes questions. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. $10. For reservations, call Ray at 663–9724 or Julia at 761–6999.*

★**"Shards": U-M School of Art.** Seven area artists show slides from their recent trip to China. Speakers are Gloria Frank, Mark Frank, Yiu Keung Lee, Harvey Levine, John Stephenson, Susanne Stephenson, and Marie Woo. *7:30 p.m., U-M School of Art Auditorium, 1000 Bonisteel Blvd. Free. 764–0397.*

★**"The Inside Edge on the Information Age": Ann Arbor Public Library.** Last in a series of four talks on personal computers. Tonight: UMI senior technical specialist Gary Scott discusses **"The Inside Edge on Computer Maintenance."** *7:30–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library Loving Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt). Free. 994–2353.*

★**"Talk It Over": Knox Singles Ministries.** Howard Deardorff, a planner and developer from Lansing, discusses **"Friendship and Intimacy: Control and Boundaries."** Refreshments. All singles invited. *7:30 p.m., Knox Presbyterian Church office, Eisenhower Commerce Center, Suite #5, 1514 Eisenhower Pkwy. at South Industrial. Free. 971–1793.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. Every Friday. All invited to play this tournament form of contract bridge in which identical hands are played by every table in order to compare individual scores. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Tap Room. $2 (students, $1). 996–1433.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. South Carolina. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (high school students, $1; college students, free). 764–0247.*

★**"The *Mensch* and the Jewish Critique of Romance": Hillel.** Talk by University of California English professor Daniel Boyarin. Preceded by a Shabbat dinner (call for information). *8 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. Free. 769–0500.*

★**"An Evening of Sufi Chanting, Meditation, and Association": Haqqani Foundation.** Also, December 15. All invited to join a program of chanting and meditation based on the traditional Naqshbandi spiritual path as taught by Grandshaykh Muhammad Nazim al-Haqqani, a Sufi master who lives in Cyprus. *8–10 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 665–2670.*

"Drum Circle." Every Friday. All invited to come and play percussion instruments (hand percussion only; no snare drums or cymbals) and learn rhythms. *8–10 p.m., Gallup Park meeting room (next to the canoe livery), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $2 donation.*

Spinning Stars Square Dance Club. With caller Glen Geer. All experienced dancers invited. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Senior Health Bldg., 5301 Huron River Dr. $6 per couple. 662–3405.*

★**Danny Rendleman: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This U-M–Flint English lecturer reads from his new poetry collection, *The Middle West.* "What is remarkable about Rendleman's poetry is its compassion and tenderness, its ability to look at the unforgiving nature of our contemporary urban lives and stay sane, calm, and beautifully truthful," says fiction writer and poet Charles Baxter. Following the reading, Rendleman signs copies of his books. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Nina Kavtaradze: U-M School of Music.** Local debut of this Russian-born pianist, an acclaimed soloist who now lives in Denmark. Tonight she performs piano works of Wagner, whose complete works for piano are featured in her forthcoming recording on the Kontrapunkt label. Kavtaradze is a frequent collaborator with Danish-born cellist Erling Blondal Bengtsson, now on the U-M music faculty, and the two perform a duo recital on December 3 (see listing). *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

John Hammond: The Ark. Critics rate this longtime local favorite among the best interpreters of country blues masters like Robert Johnson, Blind Boy Fuller, and Sleepy John Estes. Like them, he performs solo, accompanying himself on blues harp and various guitars, including a Martin 6-string, a National Steel

Standard, and a dobro. Hammond's singing, always compelling, has grown more credible as the imitatively stylized attack of his mid-60s recordings has gradually given way to a more authentic, natural-voiced approach to his classic material. "John Hammond plays blues like a locomotive," says *Washington Post* reviewer Eve Zibart, "all rhythmic pumping underneath and steam on top." Opening act is **Kelly Joe Phelps,** a talented blues singer-guitarist from the Pacific Northwest who sings in a rich, husky voice and plays slide guitar on his lap. His repertoire includes folk blues and originals. *8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $13.75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"In My Opinion": U-M Dance Department BFA Concert. Also, December 2. An evening of original choreography by four U-M dance seniors: Eve Anderson, Heather Fountain, Christopher Genter, and Jason Marchant. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio Theater, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only. 763–5460.*

"Amahl and the Night Visitors": James Sewell Ballet (EMU Office of Campus Life). This Minneapolis-based troupe performs the regional premiere of artistic director Sewell's adaptation of Gian-Carlo Menotti's popular Christmas opera, a 55-minute dance version that employs several styles of movement, including the gestural style of American Sign Language. The cast includes 8–10 additional dancers from EMU and area high schools and dance studios. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets $9–$15 (children under 12 & seniors, $7–$13; EMU students, half price) in advance at all TicketMaster outlets and at the door. To charge by phone, call 487–1221 or (810) 645–6666.*

"Into the Woods": U-M MUSKET (University Activities Center). Also, December 2 & 3. U-M students present Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Tony Award–winning musical, a darkly comic reworking of several Grimm fairy tales. In Act I, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, giant-killing Jack, and other fairy-tale figures venture into the woods, where they achieve their traditional fairy-tale triumphs; in Act II, they find themselves still in the woods, attempting with little success to live happily ever after. The play features one of Sondheim's most eclectic scores, ranging in style from jazz to vaudeville to rhapsodic ballads and operatic duets and trios. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $9 (students, $6) in advance at the Michigan League Ticket Office. To charge by phone, call 764–0450.*

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. Also, December 2 & 7–9. Ted Badgerow directs this local company in Mark St. Germain and Randy Courts's musical based on two short stories by O. Henry. The title story is the heartwarming tale of an impoverished young married couple who each sacrifice their most precious possession in order to buy the other a Christmas gift. This story is interwoven with the tale of a cheerful tramp who is trying get himself landed in jail so he can have food and shelter for the winter. Proceeds benefit Hope Clinic, which provides medical services to the indigent. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. $12.50 (general), $9.50 (students), & $7.50 (seniors & children). Dinner packages available. For reservations, call 995–1797.*

"Jeffrey": Ann Arbor Civic Theater Footlight Series. Also, December 2. (End of a 3-week run). Ronald Baumanis directs Paul Rudnick's Broadway hit, a comedy about a young gay New Yorker who decides to become celibate because of fear of AIDS, only to meet the man of his dreams. "It is less a fleshed-out play than a series of Scenes from Gay Life, but Mr. Rudnick can quip with the best of them," according to a review in *The New Yorker*. For mature audiences. Cast includes David Blixt, Peter Hedlesky, Chris Starkey, and David Curtis. *8 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). Tickets $9 (students & seniors, $8) in advance or at the door. 971–AACT.*

"Twelfth Night": U-M Theater Department. Also, December 2 & 3. U-M drama professor Philip Kerr directs U-M drama students in Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identities and misplaced affections. Viola, a noblewoman shipwrecked on the coast of the mythical king-

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DEC. 2 & 3
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  - Sunday Children's parade 12 noon downtown
  - Expanded Sunday Artisans Market at Kerrytown
  - Potters Guild semi-annual sale
  - Art Center's Holiday Gifts

Coordinated by the Washtenaw Council for the Arts in cooperation with Main Street, State Street & Kerrytown associations and the Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors Bureau

For more information contact the Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors Bureau (313) 995-7281 or the Washtenaw Council for the Arts at (313) 996-2777

Pick up an Art Day map in November at any Downtown Gallery

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- toys and games
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- artificial Christmas trees
- clothes, coats and boots
- books
- antiques and collectibles
- furniture
- hardware
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VINTAGE DANCE II: For those who have taken Vintage I, learn the elegant Viennese Waltz, direct from the heart of Victorian Europe. Then learn to add pizazz to your Ragtime Waltz, with Bostons and Hesitations. Sat. 2:30–5:00 PM, Jan 13, March 9, April 13. $32 for three lessons. ($27 for early registration)

For more information call
(313) 429–0014

THE 1995/1996 SEASON

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER EVENTS

Sat., Dec. 2, 8pm & Sun., Dec. 3, 2pm — Hill Auditorium

Handel's *Messiah*
UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Thomas Sheets, music director & conductor
Ying Huang, soprano
Laura Tucker, alto
Gregory Cross, tenor
William Stone, baritone

Thomas Sheets

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Tues., Dec. 5, & Wed., Dec. 6, 7pm — Michigan Theater

Really Rosie (A Musical for Families)
Book by Maurice Sendak and Music by Carole King
"With '*Rosie*' set aloft on King's music, the spirit of Sendak's stories and drawings has found a rich, full life onstage." (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

Saturday, December 9, 8pm — Hill Auditorium

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Orli Shaham, piano
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SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

Light Snow: Street Cleaning

When there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, 75 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves in the City are cleared by the City's Transportation Division. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high–risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

Heavy Snow: Street Plowing

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins. At this point a number of City departments become involved, supplementing the Transportation Division's equipment and operators to handle the situation. While the Transportation Division crews clear the major streets, Parks and Recreation and Utilities Division crews begin working on the residential streets. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

Snow Desk 994–2359

A City Snow Desk is staffed throughout each plowing period and during a snow emergency. The Snow Desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress.

Snow Emergency

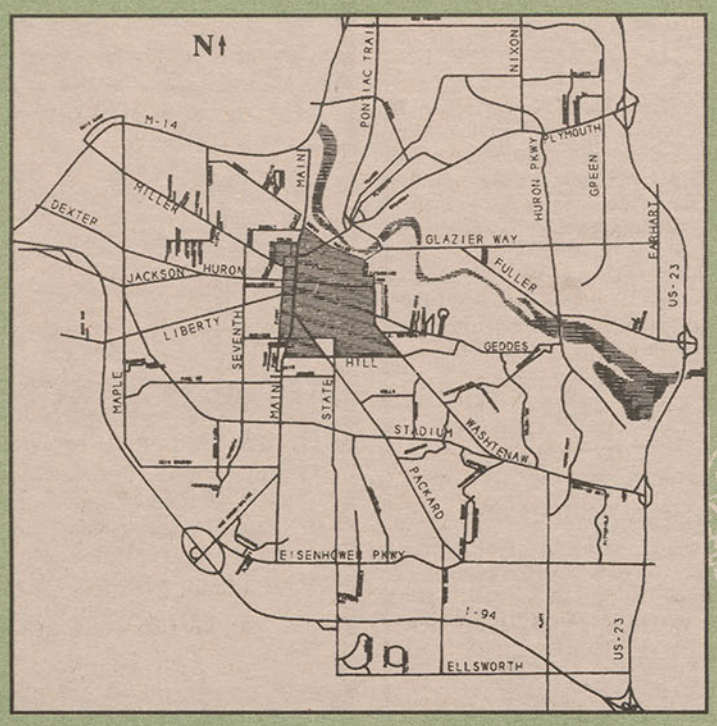
The City Administrator may declare a "snow emergency" during a severe winter storm. During a snow emergency, special parking restrictions go into effect for all streets in the City. Illegally parked cars will be towed and impounded.

Where street parking is normally permitted, restrictions go into effect to allow curbside access to City crews to clear the street surfaces:

- **On even-numbered days, cars may not park on the even-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.

- **On odd-numbered days, cars may not park on the odd-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered sides of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.

- **Designated snow emergency routes must be kept clear of parked cars at all times during the snow emergency.**



Public Sidewalk Snow Removal

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks. During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width of the public sidewalk. This enables people of all ages and physical condition to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. The City Council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks. The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am shall be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such sidewalk it shall be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Ice should be removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property shall remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting. Ice shall be treated and removed as mentioned above. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme could.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

dom of Ilyria, disguises herself as a man and finds work as a servant to Duke Orsino, with whom she promptly falls in love. But when the duke sends his new servant to court a young widow on his behalf, the widow becomes enamored of Viola. After several additional gender-bending plot twists, everyone eventually snaps back into place, but with a variety of delightful and surprising differences. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets $12–$16 (students, $6) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–0450.*

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. Every Wednesday through Sunday through December 23. Purple Rose artistic director Guy Sanville directs Jeff Daniels's new comedy, a tall tale set in the Upper Peninsula during deer season. Unfortunately, the show is completely sold out through the end of its Purple Rose run, but if you want to see it, this production opens a run in January at the BoarsHead Theater in Lansing. *8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets: $15 (Wed., Thurs., & Sun.) and $20 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance and at the door. 475–7902.*

"Playing Bare": Performance Network. Also, December 2 & 3 (end of a 3-week run). *See review, p. 113.* Malcolm Tulip directs French-Canadian playwright Dominic Champagne's tragicomedy about a production of Beckett's "Waiting for Godot." The director, an alcoholic actress, engages two childhood friends to "live" Beckett's drama rather than merely "act" it. But, in true Beckett fashion, the distinction between living and acting collapses, and the characters are forced to recognize the truth, as one of them puts it, that "all happiness comes from the games we play to give ourselves the impression we exist." The cast includes director Tulip, Christine Agius, Theo Pitsiavas, Jim Posante, and Zehra Berkman. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets $12 (students & seniors, $9; Thursdays, whatever you can afford to pay) in advance by reservation and at the door. 663–0681.*

Bert Challis: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Also, December 2. This Cincinnati native is a sharp-witted observational humorist known for his cutting, sometimes sarcastic commentary on politics and other topical matters. A writer for both Jay Leno and the "Mother Goose and Grimm" comic strip, Challis also played one of the aliens in "Alien Nation." Mainstreet owner Kirkland Teeple calls him "one of the funniest people nobody's ever heard of." Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $10 (members, $5) reserved seating in advance, $10 (members, free) general admission at the door. Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.*

★**"First Friday": Galerie Jacques.** Poetry reading by Detroit poet **Jim Gustafson** and others to be announced. Also, a chance to browse the gallery's exhibit of contemporary art. *9 p.m., Galerie Jacques, 616 Wesley. Free. 665–9889.*

Friday Dance Jam: People Dancing Studio. Dancing to an eclectic mix of taped music, including world beat, funk, rap, R&B, soul, alternative rock 'n' roll, new folk, and pop. Also, occasional live drumming. An alternative to the bar scene for people who love to dance. All are invited to bring cassette tapes and acoustic musical instruments. Smoke-free, no alcohol. Dance barefoot or bring dancing shoes. Come with or without a dance partner; children welcome. *10 p.m., People Dancing Studio, 111 Third St. (west entrance between Huron and Washington). $2. Wheelchair-accessible. 663–6845.*

FILMS

CCS. "Ermo" (Zhou Xiaowen, 1994). Refreshing, witty comedy about a woman whose quest for a larger TV than her neighbors' masks deep-seated financial and sexual anxieties. Mandarin, subtitles. FREE. Children under 12 not admitted. AH-A, 8 p.m. **CG. "Manhattan"** (Woody Allen, 1979). Bittersweet slice-of-life about a NYC writer and his cerebral friends. Woody Allen, Diane Keaton, Mariel Hemingway. Nat. Sci., 7 p.m. **"The Four Hundred Blows"** (Francois Truffaut, 1959). Also, December 2. Truffaut's autobiographical account of a young Parisian boy who turns to petty crime. French, subtitles. Nat. Sci., 8:45 p.m. **MTF. "Carrington"** (Christopher Hampton, 1995). Through December 4. Historical drama explores the complicated web of relationships among early-20th-century bohemians Lytton Strachey, Dora Carrington, and their circle of friends. Jonathan Pryce, Emma Thompson. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

2 SATURDAY

"The Environmental Connection: Rising Rates of Breast Cancer, Reproductive Disorders, and Children's Diseases": Ecology Center. See 1 Friday. Today's conference includes talks by World Resources Institute epidemiologist **Devra Lee Davis** and Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste executive director **Lois Gibbs,** known for leading the campaign to stop industrial waste dumping at Love Canal. Also, environmental experts from around the country present workshops on the impact of toxins on children's health, fertility, breast cancer, and prenatal development, and on personal risk reduction and community action. A party concludes the conference. *8 a.m.–6 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Registration: $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Students and low-income residents: $10. To register, call 761–3186. For information, call 663–2400.*

Super Garage Sale: Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop. Also, December 3. Sale of a wide selection of clothing, toys, books, furniture, household goods, and more, at bargain prices. Proceeds to benefit participating schools: Pioneer and Huron high schools, Tappan Middle School, and Burns Park, Pattengill, and Bryant elementary schools. *8 a.m.–3 p.m., Mills Bldg., 2769 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 996–9155 (sale hours only).*

★**Bird Walk: Wild Bird Center.** Also, December 9. Naturalist Debbie Livingston leads a short bird walk for all ages at a nearby nature area. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Return around 10 a.m. to the store for coffee and doughnuts. *8:30 a.m., Wild Bird Center, Traver Village, 2625 Plymouth Rd. Free, but reservations requested. 213–2473.*

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. See 1 Friday. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Annual Bazaar: Dexter Cooperative Nursery. Numerous handcrafted gifts, gingerbread-house kits, a bake sale, and a visit from Santa (11 a.m.–1 p.m.). *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Senior Center (formerly Copeland Elementary School), 7714 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–3693.*

Craft Show: Homespun Creations. Also, December 3. More than 100 crafters from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio offer basketry, jewelry, tole painting, folk art dolls, quilting, pottery, holiday items, stained glass, ceramics, wood toys, silk and dried flowers, candles, needlework, and more. Also, a special country market featuring Michigan crafts and products. Food concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Wheelchair-accessible; no strollers. $1 admission. 429–5922.*

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Festival: Rudolf Steiner School. Handmade ornaments, wreaths, dolls, and wooden toys made by school parents according to Rudolf Steiner's educational principles. Also, children's books, beeswax candles and crayons, puppet shows, and a children's activity corner where kids can make gifts to take home. Bake sale, raffle, and refreshments. Caroling and live music performances throughout the day. *9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995–4141.*

"Welfare Simulation": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Participants are invited to experience life on welfare in a 2-hour workshop. They interact with role-playing facilitators who impersonate welfare case workers, food pantry volunteers, bill collectors, job interviewers, etc. *10 a.m.–noon, First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. $5 donation. To register, call 663–1870.*

15th Annual Holiday Open House: David W. Nelson Pottery. Also, December 9. A chance to browse the studio of this area potter. Sale of a wide range of handmade porcelain pottery. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Nelson Pottery, 3045 Broad St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–7946.*

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The exhibit and sale will encompass over forty editions of framed and unframed lithographs from the Artist's studios in Ann Arbor and in Paris.

From $300 & up these lithographs will be available to purchase as historic pieces of American art or as special gifts for the holiday season. In collaboration with Stephen Frame and Gallery the exhibit and sale will take place at:

Cafe Marie of Ann Arbor, 1759 Plymouth Road
Saturday December 9th 4:00–8:00
and Sunday December 10th 4:00–7:00

Join in this unprecedented opportunity to view and purchase historic lithographs and have them personally signed by the world renowned Artist Emil Weddige

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- Instruction by club members available
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WSTC meets on alternate Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9 at the Kerrytown Concert House. Our new members meeting will be December 5th.

December 27–January 1, Marquette
January 12–14, Rogers City/Black Mountain
January 19–21, Higgins Lake Service Weekend
January 19–21, Leelanau
January 26–28, Higgins Lake
February 2–4, Mancelona, White Pine Stampede
February 8–11 Sault Sainte Marie, Canada
March 1–3, Fredric
March 15–17, Sault Sainte Marie, Canada, Wabos Loppet

Call the WSTC Hotline for current meeting and trip information: 662-SKIS

SOCCER, WINDING DOWN?

About as much as a KID who's just **pumped** 10 fun-size Snickers and a Slurpie into that **hyperactive** body.

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Winter Season I starts Dec. 4th
Winter Season II starts Feb. 5th

So forget winding down.
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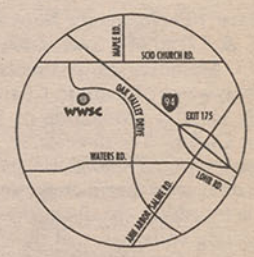

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- 5 game session
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- 15 minute instructional period for youths
- Two 25 minute periods for 14 and up
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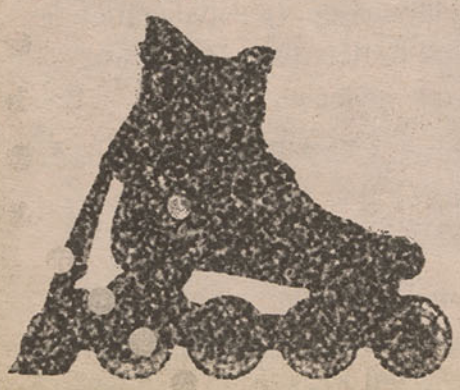

Wednesday
- 8 and under 5:30 pm
- 10 and under 6:30 pm
- 12 and under 7:30 pm
- 14 and under 8:30 pm

Thursday
- 16 and under 8:30 pm
- Co-ed Adult 9:30 pm

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December Hours:
10:30 to 8 p.m. Daily
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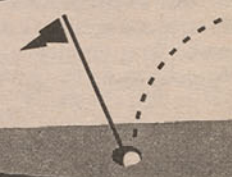

New Owner Inventory Reduction Sale
Friday & Saturday, December 1-2 ..... 10:30 - 8:00
Sunday, December 3 ..... 10:30 - 6:00

Special Holiday Shopping Nights
including refreshments & gift suggestions
Wednesday, December 13 – Women only ..... 5:30 - 8:30
Thursday, December 14 – Men only ..... 5:30 - 8:30

theater

"Playing Bare"
Waiting games

Few people knew what to make of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" when it opened in Paris in 1953, but one thing was clear: the theater would never again be the same. "It will make it easier for me and everyone else to write freely in the theater," novelist and playwright William Saroyan said after he saw it. One of the latest to prove that point is the French-Canadian playwright Dominic Champagne, whose "Playing Bare," translated by Shelly Tepperman, is at Performance Network through December 3. It's a sometimes lively production directed by Malcolm Tulip, who also designed sets and lights for the show and performs the role of Etienne.

Champagne has created a play within a play by telling the story of five people who set out to perform "Godot," Beckett's unorthodox tale of two vagrants waiting for a mysterious character named Godot. This play's driving force is an aging actress named Luce, who decides to stage the Beckett play as a way of filling her otherwise empty life. Played by a melodramatic Christine Agius, Luce pops pills and spouts lines from Chekhov and Strindberg. Her self-indulgent angst is a bit hard to take over the course of a two-hour evening, especially when it's all delivered at the same shrill pitch. But in fairness to the actress, it's also true that Champagne hasn't given her much to work with. His characters, unlike Beckett's more fully fleshed personalities, seldom seem grounded in anything other than the playwright's need to make an intellectual point.

It's an uneven play and an uneven production, but two performances in particular redeem it: Theo Pitsiavas as Victor and Malcolm Tulip as Etienne, a pair of hapless, nonactor friends who suddenly find themselves cast in the lead roles of Beckett's Vladimir and Estragon. Their brisk vaudeville routines, with piano accompaniment by Gene Gaunt, provide a welcome break from the ponderous tone of the rest of the play, and their spoken exchanges often achieve the same blend of pathos and humor that makes "Godot" itself so rich.

"Playing Bare" is bound to be more interesting for audiences who know "Waiting for Godot." Much of its appeal stems from the way Champagne weaves bits of dialogue and action from Beckett's text into his own. We watch Etienne struggle to get in and out of his boots, and we hear Victor tell Etienne that there's nothing to do but wait. The set, as in Beckett's play, features a tree (in this case it's a clothes tree) and a "low mound" (here it's two painted boxes) on which Etienne sits and puzzles over the meaning of the play.

The production ends with a stunning tableau of the actors waiting backstage to begin their performance. As the lights fade, we're left—like Etienne—to puzzle over the meaning of theater and to ponder the human compulsion to act. Maybe, as Champagne and Beckett suggest, acting is just a game we play while we wait for something to happen.

—Leslie Stainton

Bicycle Touring Society. Every Saturday & Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–0044.*

★**"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications.** Every Saturday. All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk from Gallup Park through the U-M Arboretum. *10 a.m. Meet in Gallup Park parking lot, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 930–6564.*

"Holiday Ornaments the Natural Way": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads participants in making an assortment of holiday decorations using materials gathered outdoors. *10 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter–Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426–8211.*

★**"Michigan Pioneers and the Erie Canal": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** Local historian David Park Williams discusses Michigan life in the early 19th century, the role of the Erie Canal in the settling of Michigan, and the music of the canal boatmen. Illustrated with slides and musical examples. Gray Panthers is an intergenerational group dedicated to improving life for people of all ages. Refreshments. All invited. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–7530.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. Also, December 3. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Offers a diverse range of functional and sculptural ceramics by local artists, in high-fired stoneware, porcelain, and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 201 Hill St. Free admission. 663–4970.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor Public Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new, including a new edition of *Culpeper's Herbal English Physician*, Maya Angelou's *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*, *The History of the African-American in Ypsilanti*, and much more. A separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit of 3 children's books per family) includes everything from old favorites like *Paddle-to-the-Sea* and *Minn of the Mississippi* to Calvin & Hobbes and Garfield comic books. Proceeds to support library projects. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair–accessible. Free admission. 994–2333.*

★**Grand Opening: U-M Women's Hospital Birth Center.** All invited to tour the new birth center facilities and meet staff. Highlights include a free **pre-conception planning seminar** (10 a.m.) and a **dedication ceremony** (11 a.m.) with Michigan first lady Michelle Engler and her triplet daughters. Refreshments, entertainment, and gifts for visitors. *10 a.m. (seminar), 11 a.m.–1 p.m. (tours), U-M Women's Hospital Birth Center, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. To register for the seminar, call 936–8886. For directions and parking information, call 763–9000, ext. 2229.*

★**13th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 1 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★**"What is 90% of the Universe: The Dark Matter Puzzle": U-M Physics Department "Saturday Morning Physics."** Also, December 9. First of two talks by U-M physics research fellow Shawn McKee. Today he discusses the history of the ideas and experiments that have led to the current understanding of the astrophysical mystery of dark matter. Part of a semester-long series of talks, aimed at general audiences, about cutting-edge research by U-M physicists. *10:30–11:30 a.m., 335 W. Engineering, 550 East University at South University. Free. 763–2588.*

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"Galaxies": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday and Sunday (except December 24 & 31). "Tle'ehoonaa'ei" is an audiovisual show about Native American star mythologies and lore. "Galaxies" is an audiovisual program about the motions in the heavens as seen from Earth. *Note:* The Exhibit Museum also presents weekday shows during

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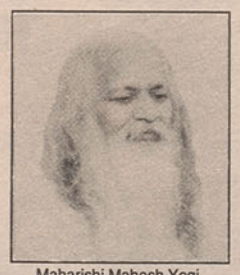

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EVENTS *continued*

the holidays (see 18 Monday listing). *10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("Galaxies"); U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors & children 12 & under, $2). Children in grades 2 & under not admitted to "Galaxies." 763–6085.*

★**"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company.** Every Saturday (except December 30). Tales, crafts, and other activities for kids ages 4–10. Today: storyteller Patti Meador talks about **Christmas Around the World.** *11 a.m.–noon, Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music.** Also, December 9 & 30. Borders staff and guests read stories and lead activities for kids ages 4–10. Today: the star of **"Really Rosie"** (see 5 Tuesday) visits to chat with kids. *11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Monthly Meeting: Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser. Monthly potluck and social gathering for gays and lesbians age 50 and older. Bring a dish to pass. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic, 1010 Wall St. $2. 764–2556.*

Comet the Reindeer: Dixboro General Store. Also, December 9, 16, & 23. *See Inside Ann Arbor, p. 20.* A real live reindeer helps set the tone for the season at this charming old-fashioned crafts store with visits every Saturday until Christmas. A chance to get up close and friendly with one of Santa's helpers. *Noon–4 p.m., Dixboro General Store, 5206 Plymouth Rd. just east of Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 663–5558.*

★**4th Annual "Art Day in Ann Arbor": Washtenaw Council for the Arts.** Also, December 3. A celebration of Ann Arbor's rich and varied visual arts community. Many downtown galleries have special exhibits this weekend, and a dozen private studios are open to the public. Includes craft demonstrations and the annual Children's Holiday Parade on Sunday. Also, don't miss the Potters Guild sale (see listing above). *Noon–5 p.m., various locations. Maps available at the WCA and other downtown galleries. For information, call 996–2777.*

★**Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum.** Also, December 3. This mid-19th-century pioneer homestead is decked out with Victorian-style greenery and decorations and a feather Christmas tree. Music played on an authentic melodeon, cooking demonstrations on an antique wood stove, hot cider and cookies, and a chance to explore the farm grounds and barn. Also, sale of old-fashioned gifts such as handmade toys and sleigh bells. Dress for snow and cold. *Noon–5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Jackson. (Take I-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) Admission $1 (families, $4). 769–2219, (517) 596–2254.*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. Also, December 3, 9, 10, 16, & 17. Tours of this restored Victorian Greek Revival house, named for the family of German musicians who occupied it at the turn of the century. The house is decorated for Christmas as the Kempfs might have done, and features a Christmas tree decorated with *lebkuchen*, German-style gingerbread cookies. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission $1 (seniors, and children under 12, 50¢). 994–4898.*

★**"Glacier Walk": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Chris Wood leads a hike to learn about how the glaciers shaped Michigan's landscape, followed by a 30-minute tour of the Rock Walkway, a collection of ancient boulders just outside the Eddy Geology Center. *1 p.m., Gerald Eddy Geology Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Geology Center is on the left.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**Steel Magnolias vs. Flint.** Ann Arbor's independent women's ice hockey team takes on the team from Flint. This month, the team plays home games December 9 & 16 and an away game in Berkley on December 18, and has drop-in practices on December 12, 19, & 30 (see listings). *1 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. Free. For information, call Susan at 485–3231.*

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: Software Etc. representatives present interactive Dr. Seuss stories for kids ages 3–7. 1 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. Also, December 3. This local company of children and adult dancers directed by Marjorie Randazzo and Sara Randazzo-Rodriguez performs Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a young girl transported by a magical nutcracker doll to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. Featured soloist is Ann Arborite **Gregory George.** *2 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets $8 (children 12 & under, $3) in advance at Norton-Durant Flowers, the Salvation Army, and First Position; and at the door. One free adult ticket with groups of 10 or more children. 994–7074.*

Michigan Marching Band: U-M School of Music. Football season is over, so this is your last chance this year to see the U-M's popular marching band execute its snappy routines and exciting musical numbers. Fun for the whole family. *2:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets $4 (children, $2). For reservations, call 764–0582.*

★**"Exploring by the River": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through woods along the Huron River. *3 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Golf Course, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter–Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** First in a series of free concerts by local musicians during the month of December. Today, songs by the **Awana Club Choir.** *3 p.m., Briarwood Mall Grand Court. Free. 769–9610.*

Saturday Night Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. Every Saturday. Chess players of all ages and levels of ability invited. Includes a weekly ladder tournament. Chess sets provided. *5–11 p.m., Adventures in Chess, 220 S. Main (new location below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 per week, or $49 annual membership. 665–0612.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the barbershop quartet **Harmony 4 Fun** and the children's choir **Spiritus Sanctus.** 6–10 p.m.

★**"Improvisation as a Spiritual Path": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Talk by Beaver Island resident **Mary Blocksma,** a widely published author whose new book, *The Fourth Coast: Exploring the Great Lakes Coastline from the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Boundary Waters of Minnesota*, documents her improvised solo travels along 5,000 miles of northern coastline. Following the talk, Blocksma signs copies of her book. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"The Winter Palace at St. Joe's": 20th Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Benefit Ball. The sights and sounds of old Russia predominate at this year's festivities, which feature glittering decorations of silver and white. Hors d'oeuvres and pre-dinner entertainment at the U-M Alumni Center includes Russian folk music by the local **Firebird Trio.** Guests then move on to the Michigan League for a gourmet dinner prepared by award-winning chefs. After dinner, ballroom dancing to **The People's Choice.** This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. This year's proceeds benefit the McAuley Campaign for Cardiovascular Care. *Note:* All ball decorations, including Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias, and table linens, are for sale. For information, call 712–3192. *7 p.m.–1 a.m., Michigan League. Tickets $750 & $1,000 per couple. For reservations, call 712–3192.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in smocking, the English art of embroidering by gathering cloth in regularly spaced round tucks, and heirloom sewing. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 971–1915.*

"Sharing the Stage": Dance Alliance Reper-

tory Company/Performing Arts Dance Theater/Studio 1. These three area youth dance companies perform new and original works by local choreographers. *7:30 p.m., Saline High School Auditorium, 7190 Maple Rd., Saline. $5 in advance and at the door. 429–1172.*

18th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. Also, December 3. A cast of some 175 Concordia students and staff and area children presents this traditional pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over the forces of sin and death. Originating in medieval England, the Boar's Head festival is a spectacle that combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, set to musical narration and full orchestra. It offers colorfully dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other characters from the medieval court, along with the traditional shepherds and wise men of Christmas lore. A highlight of the festival is the presentation of a roasted wild boar. The ferocious beast came to symbolize Satan, and its slaying represented the triumph of good over evil. A holiday dinner is served before today's performance. This immensely popular event sells out in advance year after year, so get your tickets early. *7:30 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $6 (dinner & performance, $30) in advance at the Kreft Center box office. Phone reservations accepted beginning November 27. For more information, call 995–4612.*

Square and Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Dancing to live music by David West and Donna Baird, with caller Erna-Lynne Bogue. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Bring shoes with clean soles to dance in. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6 (AACTMAD members, $5). 426–0261.*

★**"The Music of Frank Zappa": Contemporary Directions Ensemble (U-M School of Music).** Rob Reynolds directs this U-M music student ensemble in a multimedia tribute to the late great rock composer. In addition to performances of such Zappa works as "None of the Above," "Ruth is Sleeping," "BeBop Tango," "Dog Breath Variations," and "Uncle Meat," the program includes slides, tape-recorded comments by Zappa, and commentary by U-M music professors Andrew Mead and James Borders. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

The Bridge Ensemble: Kerrytown Concert House. This Seattle-based piano quartet takes its name from the fact that two of its members are Russian and two American, and they are making good on their name by forming a musical bridge between the two cultures with adventurous programming and superb musicianship. Violinist Mikhail Schmidt, cellist David Tonkonogui, and violist Susan Gulkis are members of the Seattle Symphony, and pianist Karen Sigers is well-known in the Northwest as an accomplished recitalist. In addition to performing traditional chamber works, the ensemble has given area premieres of works by dissident Russian composer Alfred Schnittke (a personal friend of Schmidt and Tonkonogui), the groundbreaking but little-known Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff, and the highly regarded young American composer Daniel Asia, among others. Tonight's program: von Dohnanyi's Serenade for String Trio, Paul Schoenfield's "Cafe Music" for piano trio, and Brahms's Piano Quartet No. 1. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $8 & $12 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. Also, December 3. This annual performance of Handel's well-loved religious oratorio has been an Ann Arbor tradition since 1879. Thomas Sheets directs the 250-voice **UMS Choral Union** and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, include Shanghai-born soprano **Ying Huang,** who will play the title role in an upcoming movie version of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." Also, mezzo-soprano **Laura Tucker,** tenor **Gregory Cross,** and baritone **William Stone.** *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $8–$16 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★**"An Evening of Sacred Song": Elise Bryant and Friends.** A program of songs of peace and justice from a variety of spiritual traditions, ranging from "Amazing Grace" to Dylan's "I

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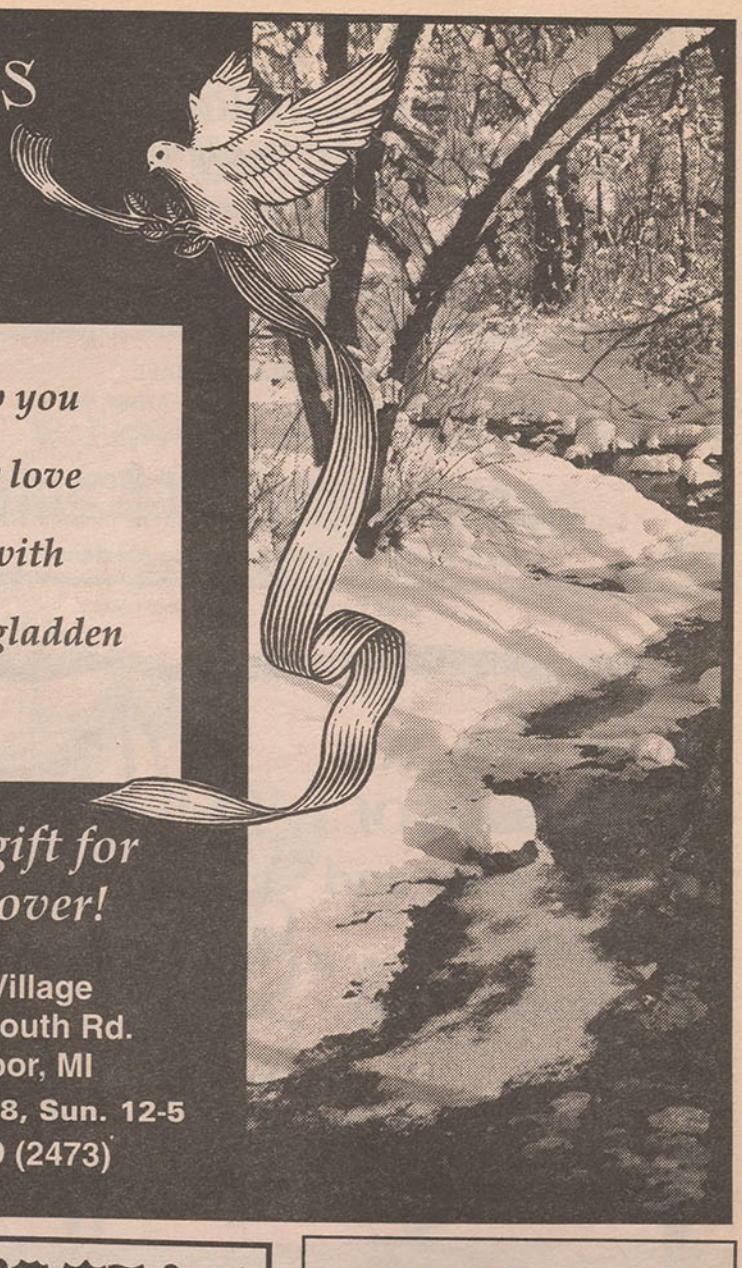

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Joel Mabus: The Ark. This MSU grad is regarded by his peers as one of the hottest pickers on the folk circuit. A virtuoso on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, Mabus is also an excellent songwriter, known for his trenchant humor and eclectic "folk-a-billy" style. "Mabus is everything a modern string player should be—versatile, innovative, tasty, and funny," says Martin Keller of the *Twin Cities Reader. 8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $10 (members, students, & seniors, $9) at the door only. 761–1451.*

"In My Opinion": U-M Dance Department BFA Concert. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Into the Woods": U-M MUSKET (University Activities Center). See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Jeffrey": Ann Arbor Civic Theater Footlight Series. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": U-M Theater Department. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Playing Bare": Performance Network. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Bert Challis: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 1 Friday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

WCBN Benefit Bash: Rick's American Cafe. Headliner is **Slot**, a local hard-edged rock 'n' roll band. Also on the bill: **The Lapdogs,** an 8-piece retro R&B & blues-rock band with an unusual horn seciton (two trombones & a trumpet) and a female vocalist with a big voice and a predilection for Janis Joplin songs, and **Windy and Carl,** an ambient rock band form Detroit. *9:30 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $5 at the door only. 996–2747.*

FILMS

CG. "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). 'Tis the season once again for this classic about a man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. Nat. Sci., 7 p.m. **"The Four Hundred Blows"** (Francois Truffaut, 1959). Truffaut's autobiographical account of a young Parisian boy who turns to petty crime. French, subtitles. Nat. Sci., 9 p.m. **MTF. "Carrington"** (Christopher Hampton, 1995). Through December 4. Historical drama explores the complicated web of relationships among early-20th-century bohemians Lytton Strachey, Dora Carrington, and their circle of friends. Jonathan Pryce, Emma Thompson. Mich., 4:30, 7, & 9:30 p.m.

3 SUNDAY

★"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Sunday. All invited to join AATC members for all or part of a 14-mile training run along roads ringing the city. *9 a.m. Meet at the Great Lakes Bancorp parking lot, 2400 S. Huron Pkwy. at Platt Rd. Free. For information, call Dan Gamble at 995–5505.*

5th Annual Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis: Arthritis Foundation. People of all ages and fitness levels are welcome to join this festive, lighthearted 5-km run or walk to raise funds for arthritis research. The course begins under the arch at Huron High School and finishes in Gallup Park. An awards ceremony is followed by a chili buffet at Max and Erma's restaurant. All entrants receive a pair of jingle bells for their shoes. Prizes to the top individual runners, walkers, and team finishers, as well as to those who raise the highest amount in pledges before the race. Participants are encouraged to dress up as elves, reindeer, Santas, snowmen, or what have you and enter a costume contest. *9:30 a.m., Huron High School arch, 2727 Fuller Rd. Registration: $18 in advance, $20 day of race. Teams of 4 or more: $30 each. For more details, call 572–3224.*

★Zen Meditation: Buddhist Society of Compassionate Wisdom. Every Sunday. Meditators from all traditions are welcome to join in meditation to develop awareness and concentration. In the morning, two 25-minute meditation periods with a break between, followed by a short talk by Zen Buddhist Temple resident priest Sukha Murray. In the evening, meditation and chanting, followed by a talk and a question period. *9:30–11 a.m. & 5–6:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free; donations accepted. 761–6520.*

★"William Allen White, Newspaper Editor": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by U-M mathematics professor emeritus Wilfred Kaplan. *10 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 994–5688.*

★"Life After the Tree Farm": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC's entertaining and informative Matt Heumann leads this exploration of a former tree farm in what is now Park Lyndon. *10 a.m., Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Super Garage Sale: Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

★Weekly Chinese Meditation: Ann Arbor Chapter of the International Yan Xin Qigong Association. Every Sunday. All invited to discuss and practice this Chinese form of meditation. *10:30 a.m.–noon, 1014 Herbert Dow Bldg., 2300 Hayward, North Campus. Free. 994–2760.*

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday. A weekly program for single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today's topic: **"Celebration of Advent."** The program begins each week with coffee and fellowship. Also, First Singles meets for breakfast every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Cafe Marie (1759 Plymouth Rd.), and every Wednesday at 7 p.m. for volleyball. All singles invited. *10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★Sunday Discussion: Knox Singles Ministries. Every Sunday. All single adults invited to join a discussion of contemporary Christian topics to be announced. *11 a.m., Tappan Middle School, 2251 E. Stadium. Free. 971–KNOX.*

Hanukkah Bazaar: Beth Israel Sisterhood. Traditional Hanukkah and other holiday gifts. Also, a kids' activity corner and gifts priced for children's budgets. Refreshments and potato latke lunch available. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation social hall, 2000 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663–9897.*

★Ann Arbor Artisan Market. Every Sunday through December. A wide variety of fine arts and crafts by local artisans. Also, some plants and produce for sale. Musicians, storytellers, or other entertainers are often on hand to add to the festivities. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. Artists interested in exhibiting should call Marilyn Mattingly at (313) 453–2606.*

★13th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Friday. Also, today: a **Christmas concert** (3–4 p.m.) with performances by the **Zion Lutheran Handbell Choir,** and other vocal and instrumental music to be announced. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Craft Show: Homespun Creations. See 2 Saturday. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

★"7th Annual Children's Holiday Parade": Main Street Area Association. All kids are invited to join a downtown street parade featuring assorted costumed animal characters, city fire engines, AATA and public school buses, and musicians from area high school marching bands. The parade is led by Mayor Sheldon and Santa Claus. Also, this year, **Really Rosie** (see 5 Tuesday listing) hosts a pre-parade party (11:30 a.m., Michigan) and then leads the kids at her party to the Federal Building to join the parade. Participating children are encouraged to wear costumes, too, and all kids are given kazoos for a kiddie kazoo band. Parents are wel-

come to bring kids in strollers or accompany those who need escorts, and nursery schools and Scout and Brownie troops can march together with an identifying banner. The parade route runs from the Federal Building down Liberty to Fourth Ave. to Washington to Main to the Detroit Edison parking lot at William. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at Real Seafood Company, and kids can visit Farmer John's Petting Zoo in the Detroit Edison parking lot. *11:30 a.m. (assemble), noon–12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Bldg., E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

★**"First Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting": Tios Restaurant.** Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. *Noon–4 p.m., Tios Restaurant, 333 E. Huron. Free. 761–6650.*

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Also, December 10. Re-creation of a 19th-century Christmas, with traditional decorations, Christmas caroling, musical entertainment, craft activities for kids, and freshly baked holiday treats. Also, a display of the American Christmas tree from 1844 to 1944. Tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse are available. *Noon–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2 (families, $8; children under 3, free). 994–2928.*

★**4th Annual "Art Day in Ann Arbor": Washtenaw Council for the Arts.** See 2 Saturday. Noon–5 p.m.

★**Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum.** See 2 Saturday. Noon–5 p.m.

★**Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program.** Every Sunday. All seniors age 55 and older invited for an afternoon of socializing. Activities include a potluck (1–1:30 p.m.) and bridge and euchre (1:30–3:30 p.m.). Participants are welcome to bring their own games. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Newcomers welcome. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Introductory Session: The Transcendental Meditation Program.** Also, December 6, 10, & 27. Introduction to this simple, natural technique for promoting mental and physical well-being, relieving stress, and providing deep rest. *1 p.m. (Sundays) & 7 p.m. (Wednesdays), TM Center, 205 N. First St. at Ann. Free. 996–TMTM.*

★**"Living Lightly": First Unitarian Church Adult Forum.** U-M students John Lombard, Lilly Lombard, and Payel Parekh offer a 2-hour workshop that includes tips on running a more environmentally friendly household, a presentation of "Environmental Family Feud," and ideas for making gifts from reusable products. *1–3 p.m., First Unitarian Church Jackson Auditorium, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Free. 665–6158.*

★**"Upstairs at Borders": Borders Books and Music.** Every Sunday (except December 24). A weekly musical series featuring area performers. Today: Renaissance music by **The Banquet of Musick.** *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio.** Every Sunday. All seniors age 50 & older are invited to join Kiki David, a 92-year-old runner (and Herb David's mother), for an hour-long walk in Gallup Park. Weather permitting. *1 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. For information, call Herb David at 665–8001 (10 a.m.–6 p.m. except Sundays).*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★**"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** See 2 Saturday. 1 p.m.

★**"Placing Ancestors in Historical Perspective": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by club member Carolyn Griffin, an Ypsilanti High English teacher. Followed by **"Genealogically Speaking,"** a discussion of genealogical terms and abbreviations by club members Richard Miller, Connie Olson, Marcia McCrary, and Bobbi Snow. *1:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts & Science Bldg., lecture hall #2, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. (810) 553–6711.*

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"Galaxies": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 2 Saturday. 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 3:30 p.m. ("Galaxies").

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 2 Saturday. 2 & 4:30 p.m.

"Into the Woods": U-M MUSKET (University Activities Center). See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Writing and Publishing Children's Books": Little Professor Book Company.** Patricia Hooper, author of *How the Sky's Housekeeper Wore Her Scarves*, talks about breaking into the children's book market. *2 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art.** Also, December 10 & 17. UMMA docents lead an hour-long tour of museum holdings. Today: **"Japanese Art."** *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

William Grant Still Concert: Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Local pianists Gail Davis Barnes, Mary Bats, Margaret Bond, Dimas Caraballo, Renee Robbins, and Katherine Teves Mizruchi and violinist Lorien Benet perform works of this noted African-American composer, whose birthday centennial is celebrated this year. Proceeds benefit the AAPTG's scholarship fund. *2 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $7 (students, $3). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. See 2 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": U-M Theater Department. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Ancient Nubia: Egypt's Rival in Africa": U-M Kelsey Museum.** Also, December 10 & 17. Informal docent-led tours of this acclaimed traveling exhibit. *2:30–3:15 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 747–0441.*

★**Esther Abate: Reehill Gallery.** Opening reception for an exhibit of drawings, paintings, and sculpture by this local artist. *2:30–5 p.m., Reehill Gallery, St. Aidan's Episcopal/Northside Presbyterian Church, 1679 Broadway (opposite the Baits Dr. entrance to U-M North Campus). Free. 663–5503.*

★**"Love and Hate: The Annual Theme Show": Clare Spitler Works of Art.** Opening reception for this exhibit of works by various artists offering their personal interpretations of love and hate. *3–6 p.m., Clare Spitler Works of Art, 2007 Pauline Ct. Free. 662–8914.*

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. Offers handmade arts and crafts from Third World countries, a chance to sponsor live farm animals (on hand and available for petting) to go to needy farms, and other items to benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. *3–7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663–1870.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** Also, December 17. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. A passionate, spirited music that derives from congregational church singing, sacred harp music is sung in 4-part harmonies designed to accommodate voices of every type, quality, and range. The term "shape note" comes from the notational method, which uses geometric shapes (rather than conventional note signs) to make the music easier to read. Songbooks are available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *3–5 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Free. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

★**Weekly Run: Ann Arbor Hash House Harriers.** Also, December 10 & 16. The local chapter of an unorthodox international running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's primary task is to follow a trail, laid out by a club member, that has been designed to trick runners into losing their way. The usual result is to make the fastest (lead) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and soft drinks, hidden along

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the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant for refreshments. *3 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For location and information, call Ingrid Verhamme at (313) 885–8490.*

Erling Blondal Bengtsson and Nina Kavtaradze: U-M School of Music. U-M faculty cellist Bengtsson and pianist Kavtaradze (see 1 Friday), a critically acclaimed duo when they both lived in Denmark, are reunited for a program that includes Brahms's Sonata No. 1 in E minor and Sonata No. 2 in F, and Shostakovich's Sonata in D minor. *3 p.m., U-M School of Music Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Today, the **Ann Arbor Suzuki Players.** 3 p.m.

"Fairbanks & Pickford: King & Queen of Hollywood": Ann Arbor Silent Film Society. First feature: **"Robin Hood"** (Allan Dawn, 1922) stars Douglas Fairbanks, Wallace Beery, and Enid Bennett in a lavish swashbuckler. *(See review, p. 119).* Second feature: **"Sparrows"** (William Beaudine, 1926) stars Mary Pickford in a melodramatic thriller about a young girl trying to protect 10 small orphans from a villain who chases them through swamps. Also, the 25th anniversary edition of **"Screen Snapshots,"** a popular Hollywood newsreel showing movie stars at work and play. *3 p.m., Sheraton Inn amphitheater, 3200 Boardwalk (off Eisenhower east of S. State). $3.50. 677–1359, 996–0600.*

★**"WEMU Jazz Talk": EMU Depot Town Center.** Last in a series of four biweekly discussions about jazz hosted by WEMU DJs. Participants are invited to bring records, tapes, or CDs to play, as well as jazz stories, insights, and questions. *4–6 p.m., EMU Depot Town Center, 32 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–6815.*

★**Holiday Pops Concert: Ann Arbor Civic Chorus (Ann Arbor Public Schools Recreation and Education Department).** Rebecca Vlisides directs this popular local chorus in a family concert of pop tunes including "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," "More Than You Know," and "Colors of the Wind" (the theme song from the movie "Pocahontas"). Also, harpist **Donna Novack** performs works by Britten and Rutter. Pianist is Joyce Reese. This popular annual event usually packs the house; arrive early to be sure of getting a seat. *Note:* The choir gives an abbreviated concert at the U-M Hospital next week (see 10 Sunday). *4 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington. Free. 994–2300, ext. 228.*

★**Chamber Music Concert: U-M Residential College.** Maria Kardas Barna directs RC students in a program of chamber solos, duets, trios, quartets, and ensemble works. *4 p.m., Residential College auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.*

★**Faculty Piano Recital: EMU Music Department.** EMU music professor **Joseph Gurt** performs piano works by Mozart, Beethoven, Rossini, Chopin, and Mussorgsky. *4 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Michael Udow directs this top-notch music student ensemble in an eclectic program that includes Iannis Xenakis's "Plei Movements: Metal and Skin," director Udow's "Music for Cross-Cultures," Frank Zappa's "The Black Page," and traditional Brazilian and African music. The Percussion Ensemble has performed to acclaim around the world, including a stint in Asia last year and at the World Music Imagination Festival in New York last winter, and has released 3 CD's. *4 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

"Master Holle": Rudolf Steiner Institute. Puppet play adaptation of this Grimm's fairy tale presented by Barbara Boeheim of Chelsea and three Detroit puppeteers, Shawn Waters, Maryann Angelini, and Carolyn Balow. Children 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult. *4 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. $2 (youths age 18 & under, $1). Reservations recommended. 662–6398.*

★**"Chanting": Jesse Richards.** Local singer-songwriter and performance artist Richards, also a veteran voice teacher, teaches the basic vocal techniques of chanting, including exercises for breathing and body awareness. The program concludes with a 30-minute chant. *4:30–6:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free. Preregistration requested. 995–2972.*

18th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 2 Saturday. 4:30 p.m.

★**Christmas Concert: Our Own Thing Chorale.** U-M music school dean Willis Patterson directs this local chorus in a program of seasonal music, including spirituals and excerpts from Handel's "Messiah." *5:30 p.m. (tentative time), Bethel A. M. E. Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free. 677–4407.*

Singletons. Also, December 17. All invited to play bridge. No partner necessary. *6–10 p.m., Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 610 Hilton Blvd. (off S. State, just south of Briarwood). $3. For information, call Mary at 971–1552.*

★**Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris & Sword Dancers.** Every Sunday. All invited to learn this traditional form of English ceremonial dance dating back to medieval times. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable soft-soled shoes. Members perform in costume on May Day and other occasions throughout the year. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. Free. For information, call Peggy at 663–9218.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight, a **Magic Show** by Jeff Scott Walters. 6–10 p.m.

★**New Script Development Series: Ann Arbor Playwrights.** All invited to hear a reading of a new play by a local playwright, followed by discussion. *7 p.m., Elmo's Supershirts, 220 S. Main. Free. 995–2047.*

"Folk Music Hootenanny Jam": Griff's Jams. All folk singers and string band musicians invited. Bring refreshments to share. *7–10 p.m., Griff's Jams, 106 E. Liberty (3rd floor). $2 suggested donation. 930–2680.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dance Club. Also, December 10 (fall dance party). Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Beginning lessons provided. All invited. *7–8 p.m. (beginning lessons), 8–9 p.m. (general dancing), Michigan Union Ballroom. $1 donation. 213–2208.*

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. Also, December 10 & 17. Dancing to late-30s swing and 40s R&B by this veteran local big band led by Urbations saxophonist David Swain. *7–9:30 p.m., Heidelberg Restaurant (3rd floor), 215 N. Main. $3. 663–7758.*

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Playing Bare": Performance Network. See 1 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**Adventure Night: Bivouac Adventure Travel.** Also, December 10. First in a series of two weekly slide-illustrated talks, followed by discussion. Tonight: Bivouac Adventure Travel founder Dan Pickard discusses **"Belize: Reefs, Rain Forests, and Ruins."** *7:30 p.m., Bivouac Adventure Travel, 336 S. State. Free. 761–8777.*

"The Ministry of Illusion: German Film, 1933–1945": Goethe-Institut Ann Arbor. Last in a series of screenings of German films made under the Third Reich. Most of them are nonpolitical—frothy entertainments offering escape from the terrors of Nazi Germany. All films are in German with English subtitles. Tonight, Josef von Baky's escapist fantasy **"Munchausen"** (1943), a cinematic and technical tour de force about a heroic baron who masters his own destiny and rules the world with his amazing powers. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. $6 (seniors, students, & children, $5; Michigan Theater members, $4). 668–8480, 996–8600.*

Israeli Dancing: Hillel. Also, December 10. Tom Starks leads an hour of instruction for beginners and advanced, followed by open dancing. *8–10 p.m., 1429 Hill St. $2.50. 769–0500.*

★**Brass Ensembles: U-M School of Music.** U-M brass players perform works to be announced. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

★**Creative Arts Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Ed Sarath directs this U-M music-stu-

movies

Douglas Fairbanks's "Robin Hood"

The epitome of a swashbuckler

Tired of movies whose leading men substitute stunt doubles and special effects for talent, persona, and savoir-faire? Ann Arbor Silent Film Society president Art Stephan has just the flick for you. Filmdom's first and best swashbuckler will grace the screen once again when the AASFS presents the rarest of rare films, Douglas Fairbanks's "Robin Hood," at the Sheraton Inn on Sunday, December 3. Unlike Errol Flynn, his only real competitor, Fairbanks not only did all of his own stunts but was a kindhearted, gracious man whose films are full of style and exuberant fun.

An atmosphere of chivalry, elegance, and ritual graces this epic adventure. The film opens with Charles Kingsley's poem "Old And New," followed by shots of ruins that dissolve into gloriously restored castles. We see an elaborate archery competition staged with full medieval grandeur on the vast grounds of the largest Hollywood set ever. (With its thousands of extras, a ninety-foot-high castle, and a thirty-foot-wide moat complete with drawbridge, the "Robin Hood" set easily surpassed that of D. W. Griffith's "Intolerance" in magnitude.)

Wallace Beery plays King Richard the Lion-Hearted. Usually cast as a ruffian, Beery here succeeds in projecting idealism, refinement, and greatness. While Richard is away fighting the Crusades, the villainous Prince John, played wonderfully by Sam De Grasse, assumes and abuses the king's power, and Robin undertakes his guerrilla war against the usurper.

Fairbanks is so good that he even manages to upstage the film's magnificent settings. His duels with Prince John's crony, Sir Guy of Gisborne, and his henchmen, find him bounding and leaping about the fantastic sets. Director Alan Dwan, who was also a professional engineer, hid various contraptions in the scenery to assist Fairbanks in his acrobatic performances. In one of his finest stunts ever, he descends from a balcony above the great hall to the floor below by sliding down a huge tapestry, aided by a slide concealed in the folds of the drapery. Still, none of these stunts would have been possible without Fairbanks's daring athleticism.

The film's grand style and magnificent production values are typical of the indulgent expressionism of the 1920's, but its deft comedic touches and lighthearted heroic panache—which were to influence Spielberg's Indiana Jones films sixty years later—make it easy for contemporary audiences to connect with its larger-than-life ambience. In this day of interchangeable Planet Hollywood stereotypes, it's great to see an actor really fill the big screen with his presence and personality.

—Dan Moray

dent ensemble in contemporary works to be announced. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

FILMS

Ann Arbor Silent Film Society: "Fairbanks & Pickford: King & Queen of Hollywood." See Events listing above. Sheraton Inn amphitheater (3200 Boardwalk), 3 p.m. **Goethe-Institut. "Munchausen"** (Josef von Baky, 1943). See "The Ministry of Illusion" listing above. Mich., 7:30 p.m. **MTF. "All That Jazz"** (Bob Fosse, 1979). Semi-autobiographical film in which director-choreographer Fosse looks back over his life in show business. Roy Scheider, Jessica Lange. Mich., 5 p.m. **"Carrington"** (Christopher Hampton, 1995). Also, December 4. Historical drama explores the complicated web of relationships among early-20th-century bohemians Lytton Strachey, Dora Carrington, and their circle of friends. Jonathan Pryce, Emma Thompson. Mich., 9:45 p.m.

4 MONDAY

Preschool Play Sessions: East Side Co-op Drop-In Center. Every Monday (except December 25) & Wednesday. Structured and unstructured supervised play sessions for preschoolers. Includes songs, stories, art projects, and snack time. Parents are expected to stay with their children every fourth visit to help supervise. *9–11:30 a.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. $2.50 ($1.50 for each additional child). 434–8861.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. Also, December 11. All invited to join this independent local women's chorus to sing a variety of music, from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Gini Robison directs. *10–11:30 a.m., Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 520 W. Jefferson at Fourth St. Free to first-time visitors ($30 per semester membership dues). 677–0678, 487–2691.*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. Also, December 11 & 18. Activities begin at 10 a.m. with an educational or cultural program. This month: **"Historic Washtenaw Homes,"** a series of four slide-illustrated lectures and discussions presented by Alice Cerniglia. The weekly program also includes a meeting of the creative writing group **Words for Ourselves, Our Children, Our Community** (12:30 p.m.). Also, at noon, a homemade dairy luncheon buffet ($4; $3 with reservations). All invited. *10 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★13th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. Also, December 11 & 18. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 and older. Every meeting includes a special program, speaker, word game, or craft activity (10 a.m.). The weekly program also includes **Bible study** (11:15–11:45 a.m.) and **chair exercises** (11:45 a.m.–noon). Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch and socializing. *10:30 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free ($1 donation for lunch). 668–8353.*

Nutrition Class: Mission Health Nutricare. Also, December 11, 12, & 19 (times and locations vary). A 1-hour class on maintaining a healthy diet, taught by St. Joe's Hospital nutritionists. This month's theme: **"Exercising through Winter."** *6 p.m. (today & December 11), St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5301 E. Huron River Dr.; noon (December 12 & 19), Arbory Conference Room, Reichert Bldg., 5301 E. Huron River Dr.; & 5:30 p.m. (December 12 & 19), St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. $5. 712–3438.*

★Winter Reception: U-M Gay and Lesbian Alumni Society. All interested persons are welcome at this social gathering for gay, lesbian, and bisexual U-M grads. Caroling and refreshments. *6–8:30 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth St. Free. 764–3292.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight, a performance by **Impact Dance.** 6–10 p.m.

Annual Holiday Craft Auction: First United Methodist Church Co-op Nursery. The popular local Braun and Helmer auction team conducts this auction of handcrafted toys, Christmas and other decorations, baked goods, services, and more. Refreshments and door prizes. *6:15 p.m. (preview), 7 p.m. (auction), First United Methodist Church social hall, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 662–4536.*

Insight Meditation (Vipassana) Sitting Group: Deep Spring Center. Also, December 18. All invited to join this group for 45 minutes of meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by basic instruction (reservations required), and followed by socializing (7:45–8 p.m.) and a meditation class with discussion (donation requested). The program is led by Barbara Brodsky, an Ann Arborite who teaches meditation locally and around the U.S. Bring a cushion to sit on. *7–7:45 p.m., 3455 Charing Cross (off Packard just west of US-23). Donations accepted; preregistration recommended. For information, call Barbara Brodsky at 971–3455.*

★Weekly Meeting: Huron Valley Toastmasters. Also, December 11 & 18. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the U-M Hospital cafeteria. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: $48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 663–1836.*

★Weekly Meeting: The Shire of Cynnabar. Also, December 11 & 18. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Each meeting features a workshop on re-creating a different aspect of medieval culture, including heraldry, costuming,

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embroidery, and other crafts. *7 p.m., 1305 Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1311 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, call Kay Jarrell at 482–2278.*

★**Evening Voyages: Ann Arbor Public Library.** Also, December 18. Part of a series of storytelling programs for listeners 1st grade through adult. Stories in this popular series are told rather than read, and music is an integral part of each program. Children under age 6 not admitted. Tonight's topic: **"Clothing."** *7–7:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Music and stands provided. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School band room, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free to first-time visitors ($30 annual dues). 665–5758.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M A-Squares. Also, December 11 & 18. Square, round, and line dancing, with caller Richard Maurer. No partner necessary; beginners welcome. All invited. *7:30–10 p.m., North Campus Commons, 2101 Bonisteel Blvd. $2. 434–8454, 971–2242.*

★**"Ping-Pong Diplomacy: A View Behind the Scenes": U-M Women's Research Club.** *Postponed from November.* Talk by Ruth Eckstein, a local career counselor whose husband, former U-M Center for Chinese Studies director Alexander Eckstein, co-hosted a 1972 visit by the Chinese national table tennis team. Refreshments. All invited. *7:45 p.m., Rackham West Conference Room (4th floor). Free. 662–8067.*

★**"Monday Evenings with Stephen McLean": Network Chiropractic Center.** A series of talks by this local chiropractor. Tonight: **"Network Chiropractic's Influence on Environmental Illness."** Also this month: **"Transformation Through Network Chiropractic Care and the 12 Stages of Healing"** (December 18). *8 p.m., Network Chiropractic Center, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668–6110.*

"Living with Dying": Rudolf Steiner Institute. Talk by Amherst College physics professor Arthur Zajonc, the current general secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America. *8 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. $8 (students & seniors, $5). 662–6398.*

★**"Music for the Motion Pictures": Concert Band (U-M School of Music).** Dennis Glocke directs this U-M student ensemble in an entertaining program featuring excerpts from film scores. Includes Dmitri Shostakovich's "Film Music for Winds" (drawn from the composer's music for some 36 films) and "The Red Pony," Aaron Copland's "Film Suite for Band" (heard on the soundtrack of "The Grapes of Wrath"), and William Walton's "Henry V Suite" (for the 1946 film starring Laurence Olivier). Narration by U-M drama professor John Neville Andrews. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

★**Writers Series: Guild House.** Readings by local poets **Rachel Paster, Raul Smith,** and **Nathalie Peterson.** *8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.*

★**Ballroom Dancing: EMU Ballroom Dance Club.** Also, December 11 & 18. Ballroom dancing to recorded music. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons ($1) taught by experienced club members, and advanced lessons ($2) taught by professional dancers. All invited. *8:50–9:45 p.m., McKenny Union, 850 W. Cross, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–1345.*

Bob Margolin: Rick's American Cafe. A guitarist in Muddy Waters's band from 1973 to 1980, Margolin plays everything from down-and-dirty Chicago blues to rambunctious jump blues to rollicking barrel-house blues. A virtuoso of slide and other blues guitar styles, he is also known for his resonant, throaty vocals and memorable blues originals. He recently released "Down in the Alley," a critically acclaimed debut on the Alligator label. Opening act is the **Terraplanes,** a local blues band. *10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $4 at the door only. 996–2747.*

FILMS

MTF. "Carrington" (Christopher Hampton, 1995). Historical drama explores the complicated web of relationships among early-20th-cen-

musical theater

Saving the Queen

The U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society

First off, I'm not a diehard Gilbert and Sullivan fan. I don't wait breathlessly for the next production by the Gilbert and Sullivan Society. I don't own any of the T-shirts, sweatshirts, posters, books, libretti, or other paraphernalia UMGASS sells in the lobby of the Mendelssohn Theater during its shows. I can't even hum along with the tunes because I don't know them.

I go to the shows mostly because I have a group of friends who like to go. And they go because they love the music.

Music is really the best reason to go, in fact. The evening always starts off with a rousing sing-along performance of the British national anthem and then moves on to the oom-pah-pahs of Sullivan's scores and the rhyming patter of Gilbert's lyrics—a kind of nineteenth-century rap. The melodies are pretty, the chorus is always full of pep, and you can count on the leads to have pleasing voices, although they're often disappointing as actors and dancers.

Among the worst reasons to go to an UMGASS production is the production itself. The sets are usually uninspired and the costumes are worse. They rarely fit well and can be downright awful. (In last spring's production of "H.M.S. Pinafore," the female lead looked more like a hood ornament than a human being. I still can't figure out what she was wearing on her chest, but I think it was a window box.) The choreography can best be described as quaint, and the acting is mediocre.

An exception to this rule is U-M law professor Bev Pooley, who's been with the Society for the past twenty years and invariably turns in the best performance of the night. Pooley has an elastic face and a seemingly endless repertoire of funny poses, and he knows how to milk the last drop of comedy from every second. Watch Bev Pooley for a few minutes and you begin to understand why people turn into Gilbert and Sullivan addicts. Too bad he's not in this fall's show, "The Grand Duke."

To attend an UMGASS production is to experience a venerable Ann Arbor tradition. There's a cultlike feel to every performance. The Society has been around for nearly fifty years, and it sometimes seems as if most of its audience has, too. People clap along with the music and laugh uproariously at lines that aren't really very funny. Every once in a while, though, something happens that is so hilarious you find yourself laughing along with them; then you remember that Gilbert and Sullivan came from the same country that brought us Monty Python, and you begin to feel like part of the crowd.

All in all, it's worth going at least once to this semi-annual Ann Arbor rite. If nothing else, you get to stand up and sing "God Save the Queen" with 600 other Americans. Where else can you do that for only $10?

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society presents "The Grand Duke" December 7–10.

—Leslie Stainton

tury bohemians Lytton Strachey, Dora Carrington, and their circle of friends. Jonathan Pryce, Emma Thompson. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

5 TUESDAY

★**Weekly Meeting: Community Bible Study.** Every Tuesday. All invited to join this interdenominational Bible study group. No previous Bible study required. *9:15–11:15 a.m., Grace Bible Church, 1300 S. Maple; and 7–9 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1914 Greenview. 668–6340.*

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor Public Library.** Also, December 6, 12, & 13, and (at various branch locations), December 5–17 & 12–14. Stories, songs, and finger plays for preschoolers age 3 and up. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. This week's topic: **"Winter Follies."** *9:30–10 a.m., West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2053 Jackson Rd.; and 4–4:30 p.m., main library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

★**"Awaken Your Light Body."** Every Tuesday. Meditation program led by local spiritual channeler and healer Sandra Shears. *10–11:30 a.m. & 7–8:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free; donations accepted. 994–0047.*

★**"Chinese Film Studies in the U.S.": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Brown Bag Lecture.** Talk by U-M Center for Chinese Studies postdoctoral fellow Zhang Yingjin. Bring a bag lunch; Chinese lunch (around $3) available. *Noon–1 p.m., Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Music Box: "Downtown Sounds" Concert**

Celebrate the Sounds of the Season

Creating a joyful noise to enhance holiday festivities for the entire family is the strength and purpose of pledge drive programming every December, and this year is no exception. Whether the celebration is secular or religious, WFUM pledge drive specials add to the ambiance of good will that permeates the season.

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We thank your for your support and wish you the best in every season.

·W·F·U·M·
TV28 M FLINT

TEACHER BARGAINING HELPS KIDS TOO!

In the last two issues of the *Observer*, we told you about teacher bargaining that helps kids in ways such as limiting class size, protecting against dirt and dust, assuring properly certified and competent teachers, requiring follow-up on communicable diseases, and providing supplementary pay for after school activities to assure quality professional leadership. This month, we are reporting on additional items that have been initiated and bargained by the AAEA over the years.

- An affirmative action clause that helps kids experience and interact with role models from all ethnicities.
- A procedure for intervening with children in non-physical ways except in cases of danger, to help children learn that non-violence can be a successful standard of behavior.
- A fringe benefits program that encourages teachers to stay healthy and be at work.
- Requirements for broad distribution of handicapped kids and assistance for teachers with extremely needy kids, so the teacher can help those students as well as the rest of the class.
- Allows buildings the flexibility to set parent conferences at times convenient to both staff and parents.

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presented by the Ann Arbor Education Association representing 1,100 professionals who work for the Ann Arbor Public Schools

Series. The close-harmony vocal quartet of Penny Kindraka, Anne Walker, Glenn Groustra, and Dick Bauman perform a wide variety of songs from the 1920s to the present, from romantic ballads to show tunes. Bring a bag lunch; coffee provided. *12:10–1 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2333.*

★**"The Dialogic Emergence of Culture": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** U-M anthropology professor Bruce Mannheim is on hand to sign copies of this recently published collection of essays he co-edited with Dennis Tedlock. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"The Woman Question in Egypt: On a Dynamic of Post-Colonial Cultural Politics": U-M Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies/U-M Institute for the Humanities.** Lecture by NYU anthropologist Lila Abu-Lughod. *4 p.m., Rackham East Conference Room (4th floor). Free. 764–0350, 936–3518.*

"Anniversary Celebration": Kid Kingdom. Also, December 6 & 7. This local play park celebrates with a series of special events. Today, **birthday cake** and a **free stadium cup** to the first 50 kids. *4–8 p.m., Kid Kingdom, 2107 W. Stadium. $4.95 (infants under 1 & adults, free) includes unlimited play. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 769–1700.*

★**Jugglers of Ann Arbor.** Every Tuesday. All invited to join this practice laboratory for local jugglers. Beginners should call for information about occasional free workshops offered by veteran club members. *6–9 p.m., Michigan Union location to be announced. Free. 449–0999.*

★**"String Figure Fun": Ann Arbor Public Library.** Local string figure artist Marcia Gaynor shows how to make a cat's cradle and other string figures. For kids age 8 & older. *6–7 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library youth department (1st floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–2345.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: storyteller **Patti Meador.** 6–10 p.m.

★**"Liturgists' Round Table": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join members of this local pagan group to plan a Yule ritual for December 16 (see listing). *7–9 p.m., 507 Pearl St., Ypsilanti. Free. 485–8632.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Rainbow Oasis Center.** All lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transvestite persons, and their friends are invited to get involved with this organization, which is creating a center for the gay community in Washtenaw County. Also, the group sponsors a New Year's Eve dance on December 31 (see listing). *7 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 913–9516.*

Monthly Meeting: Catholic Alumni Group. Dinner and socializing for single Catholics free to marry in the church. *7 p.m., Paesano's restaurant, 3411 Washtenaw. Price of dinner varies. For reservations, call Bob at 662–3555 or Mary at 971–6551.*

★**New Member Orientation: Parents Without Partners.** Also, December 19. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are invited to learn about the activities of this local PWP chapter. *7 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 973–1933.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** Also, December 12. All invited to learn about the ski club's various excursions and social events. Tonight's topic: **"What's New in Clothing, Equipment, and Waxing."** *7 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–SKIS.*

★**1995 Middle Eastern & North African Film Festival: U-M Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies.** Last in a 6-week series of films from the Middle East exploring a wide range of social and cultural issues. Tonight: Egyptian filmmaker Nadir Galal's **"The Terrorist"** (1994), the story of a vicious terrorist who hides out in the home of an unsuspecting wealthy family. Made by filmmakers who were outraged by a friend's murder, the film is unusual (and controversial) in that it is a Muslim protest against the terrorist tactics of Muslim extremists. *7 p.m., Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–0350.*

"Really Rosie": The Night Kitchen Theater Company (University Musical Society). Also, December 6. This children's theater company founded by renowned author-illustrator Maurice Sendak presents a family musical based on Sendak's 1960 book *Rosie on the Stoop*. It's the story of Rosie, a feisty young Brooklyn girl with a vivid imagination, who presides over her neighborhood chums as she proposes to cast them in a movie of which she is both producer and star. The musical score by pop singer-songwriter Carole King abounds with delightful rhythms and melodies, while the costumes and sets reflect Sendak's flair for the colorfully outrageous. "Really Rosie" debuted off-Broadway and has been performed to acclaim before young audiences around the country. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $15 (children, $5) in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Rec Ed Book Club.** All welcome to join this local book discussion group. This month's selection to be announced. *7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For information, call Susan Hunter at 761–6954.*

★**Holiday Caroling: Little Professor Book Company.** Holiday music performed by members of the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. Hot chocolate, coffee, and doughnuts served. *7:30 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

Burt Carols Workshop: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Public workshop led by the Burt Carol Singers, a Michigan a cappella sextet formed a few years ago to sing the Burt Carols, a collection of Christmas songs composed in the 1940s by Michigan composer Bate Burt, his son Alfred Burt, and lyricist Wihla Hutson. The carols were written as gifts for family and friends and feature beautiful, unusual harmonies. All welcome. *7:30 p.m., Gretchen's House III, 1745 W. Stadium Blvd. $4. 665–7704. (313) 261–9689.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Sweet Adelines County Connection.** Every Tuesday. All women invited to drop in and listen to or participate in the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus, formerly known as the Ann Arbor Sweet Adelines. *7:30–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Union Hall, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to first-time visitors ($18 monthly dues for those who join). 995–4110.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** Every Tuesday. All male singers invited to attend the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. Visitors welcome. *7:30 p.m., Domino House, Domino's Farms EBA Club, Lobby D, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free to first-time visitors ($70 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call John Hancock at 769–8169.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Also, December 19 (different program). Speaker and topic to be announced. Also, club members show their recent slides. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free ($10 annual dues for those who join). 663–3763, 665–6597.*

★**"Healing Body, Mind, Spirit": Ancient Formula.** Every Tuesday (except December 26). A series of lectures by local alternative healers. Tonight: Anne Tillotson discusses **Neuro-Linguistic Programming.** *7:30 p.m., Ancient Formula Health Foods and Herbs, 1677 Plymouth Rd. (in the Courtyard Shops, below Subway). Free. 475–1047.*

★**"The Foundation of All Perfection": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Every Tuesday. One of a series of talks by Gelek Rinpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who currently lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Rinpoche's longtime student, Aura Glaser (former owner of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore) or a visiting guest speaker. *7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 211 E. Ann. Free, but donations are accepted. 994–3387.*

★**Monthly Meeting: U-M Science Research Club.** U-M Museum of Paleontology research

scientist Gregg Gunnell discusses **"The Fossil Record: The Origin of Higher Primates,"** and Clarence Taube of the state DNR Institute of Fisheries Research discusses **"When the Salmon Came to Michigan."** *7:30 p.m., G390 Dental Bldg., 1011 North University. Free. 763–5194.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Eye of the Spiral.** Every Tuesday (except December 26). All invited to join this student Wiccan/Pagan group for ritual, study, discussion, and fun. *8–10 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 332–9510.*

★**Video Planning Meeting: Peace InSight.** All invited to help with the production of this local TV series on peace and social justice issues, aired on cable channel 9. *8 p.m., Espresso Royale Caffe, 214 S. Main. Free. For information, call 761–7749.*

★**Open Mike Poetry Night: Barnes & Noble.** All poets invited to read their work. *8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

Jeffrey McDaniel: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Reading by this widely published poet from Washington, D.C., a National Poetry Slam veteran whose work is known for its satire and dark humor. McDaniel's reading is preceded by open mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologuists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a $10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. The evening concludes with a second open mike session following the featured reading. *8–11 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. $3. For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

★**EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department.** Anthony Iannaccone directs EMU music faculty and students in a varied program that includes two Vivaldi concerti, Haydn's Schopfungsmesse in B-flat Major, and Handel's Psalm Cantata. *8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Chamber Choir and University Choir: U-M School of Music.** Jerry Blackstone and Theodore Morrison direct these U-M student choirs in works by Rachmaninoff, Britten, Part, Janacek, and Badings. Soloists are tenor Darryl Edwards and organist Michael Budewitz. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

★**Donald Sinta: U-M School of Music.** Recital by this U-M saxophone professor, a well-known soloist and educator. Program to be announced. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

Cris Williamson & Tret Fure: The Ark. Also, December 6. One of the most popular and creative figures in women's music, Williamson writes rock-flavored folk songs known for their blend of passion, humor, visionary idealism, and deft storytelling. She also possesses a luminous, powerful voice, "a full-bodied, high-soaring thing of beauty," according to critic Ben Fong-Torres. She teams up tonight and tomorrow with longtime collaborator Fure, a virtuoso pop-rock guitarist and songwriter who got her start with the Spencer Davis Group in the early 70s. Their current show, "Songs for a Winter Evening," features songs from their recently released second collaborative recording, "Snow Angel." *8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $13.75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. Every Tuesday. Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. All singles invited; married couples also welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dance class ($3). Dress code observed. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $5 (members, $4). 665–6013.*

★**Speed Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** Every Tuesday. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 22nd year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. *9 p.m., U-M Track & Tennis Bldg. S. State at Hoover. Free. 663–9740.*

★**"Almost Anything Goes": U-M School of Music/Institute for the Humanities.** Students of U-M musical theater professor Joan Morris present a nightclub-style performance of cabaret songs. *9:30 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall, 105 S. State St. Free. 763–4726, 936–3518.*

FILMS

CG. SNEAK PREVIEW. "Sense and Sensibility" (Ang Lee, 1995). Adaptation of Jane Austen's novel. Emma Thompson. Nat. Sci., 9:30 p.m.

6 WEDNESDAY

Preschool Play Sessions: East Side Co-op Drop-In Center. See 4 Monday. 9–11:30 a.m.

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor Public Library.** See 5 Tuesday. This week's topic: **"Winter Follies."** *9:30–10 a.m., Loving Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt); and 6:30–7 p.m., main library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

"Looking Forward to the Holidays": Kitchen Port. Jody Nichols, owner of Nichols Catering and Lindsay's Restaurant, offers tips for decorating a holiday table and shows how to make a Yule log, eggnog, and frosted fruit. *Noon–1 p.m., Kitchen Port (Kerrytown). $5 includes coffee, taste samples, and recipes. 665–9188.*

★**"Westernizers Despite Themselves: Paradoxes of the Ukrainian Anti-Colonial Discourse": U-M Center for Russian and East European Studies Brown Bag Lecture.** Talk by Mykola Ryabchuk, deputy editor for cultural events of *Vsesvit*, a Ukrainian monthly. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon, Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"The Medici and the Palazzo Vecchio": U-M Museum of Art.** Also, December 7. This 50-minute video covers many of the rooms and the private chapel of this palace funded by the ruling family of Renaissance Florence. *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church.** Also, December 13 & 20. First in a series of three Advent season concerts. Today: organ recital by Jim Nissen, associate music director at the church. *12:15–12:45 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at S. State. Free. 677–0678.*

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Every Wednesday through March. A variety of activities for kids. *3:30–5:15 p.m., Buhr Park outdoor ice rink, 2751 Packard Rd. $2. 971–3228.*

★**"Crossing Frontiers: Gerontology Emerges as a Science": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** U-M history professor W. Andrew Achenbaum, also deputy director of the U-M Institute of Gerontology, is on hand to sign copies of his recently published study. He also signs copies of *Profiles in Gerontology: A Biographical Dictionary*, a book he co-wrote with Daniel Albert. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**The WCC Performance Hour: Washtenaw Community College.** Monthly performance in which WCC students offer dramatic readings on a given theme. This month's program to be announced. Following the performance, an opening reception for a **juried student art exhibit.** *4 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.*

"Anniversary Celebration": Kid Kingdom. See 5 Tuesday. Today, entertainment by a **clown, face painting,** and **balloon sculpting.** 5:30–7:30 p.m.

★**". . . And the Beat Goes On": Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute.** Also, December 13. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital cardiovascular experts offer a series of lectures on maintaining a healthy heart. Visitors can attend any or all of the classes. Today's topic: **"Managing Your Stress."** Also this month: **"Integrating Exercise into Your Lifestyle"** (December 13). *6 p.m., Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 712–3583.*

Monthly Meeting: Homeopathic Study Group of Ann Arbor. All invited to join this study group that focuses on acute care and first aid. Some knowledge of or previous experience with homeopathic medicine is recommended. *6 p.m., location to be announced. $3. 994–4937.*

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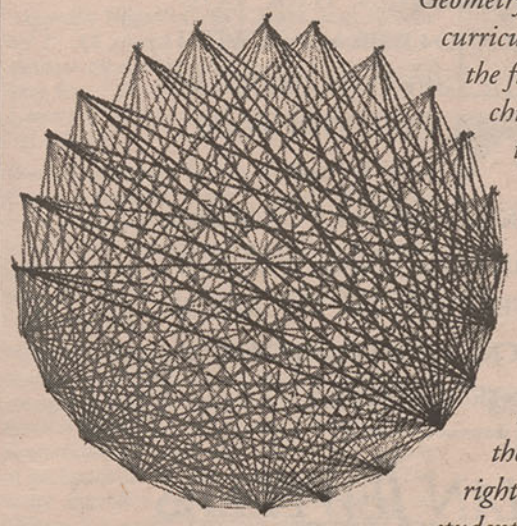
Geometry in the Sixth Grade



Geometry is an integral part of the math curriculum at the Steiner School from the first day of school. Lower grade children experience geometry through stylized form drawing exercises, drama and eurythmy. In the sixth grade, a turning point occurs. With a compass and straightedge, sixth graders execute a series of complex geometric drawings. Now that they've experienced the structure of geometric forms right down to their fingertips, the students are ready to tackle proofs.

6th grade drawing by Aaron Black

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★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

★Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club. Every Wednesday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–7:45 p.m., Concordia College Manor, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: $24 semi-annually. 995–7351.*

★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. Every Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, with free cookies on Wednesdays and craft activities on Thursdays. Barnes & Noble staff present storytelling programs for kids. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★African-American Book Reading Club: Little Professor Book Company. All invited to join this club dedicated to reading and discussing the works of African-American authors. This month's selection to be announced. *7–8 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

"Really Rosie": The Night Kitchen Theater Company (University Musical Society). See 5 Tuesday. 7 p.m.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. EMU. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (high school students, $1; college students, free). 764–0247.*

★"Christian Science Testimony Meeting": First Church of Christ, Scientist. Every Wednesday. The church's lay reader reads different selections each week from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. Followed by testimony of Christian Science healing by congregation members. All invited. *7:30–8:30 p.m., First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1833 Washtenaw. Free. 662–1694.*

★Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center. Also, December 13 & 20. All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. All invited. *7:30 p.m., 3455 Charing Cross Rd. (off Packard just west of US-23). Free, but donations are accepted. 971–3455.*

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wednesday. Each two-person team plays two or three hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7:30–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 665–3805.*

"Eating the Planet: Food Choices and Our Future": Vegetarian Information Network & Exchange. Talk by Memorial University of Newfoundland mathematics professor Alka Chandna. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., 802 Monroe at Oakland. $1 (members, free). 668–9925, 426–8525, (517) 423–3226.*

★Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Computer Society. Speaker and topic to be announced. Also, product giveaways for AACS members. New members are welcome to join this club for hardware and software computer professionals interested in networks, multimedia, systems integration, object-oriented programming, C++, Unix, Windows, and other contemporary computing topics. *7:30–9:30 p.m., 1200 U-M EECS Bldg., 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, use E-mail through Internet (aacs-info@msen.com) or CompuServe (72241,155), or call 741–9884.*

★Shamanic Journeys: Creation Spirituality. Every Wednesday (except December 27). Participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–3522.*

★"Transformations: Personal and Planetary Healing": LifeTouch Healing Community. Every Wednesday (except December 27). Local alternative healers discuss various approaches to physical and spiritual health. Tonight: local channeler Tom Thomas presents a **"Psychic Bulletin: Comments on the Global to the Personal."** *8 p.m., LifeTouch Chiropractic, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but space limited; reservations requested. 668–6110.*

★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Institute. Also, December 20. Part of a series of biweekly lectures by U-M physics professor emeritus Ernst Katz on Steiner's *Theosophy*. No previous knowledge of Steiner's work is necessary. Followed by discussion & refreshments. *8–10 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 662–9355.*

★University Symphony Orchestra and University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Kenneth Kiesler and Pier Calabria direct these U-M music student ensembles in a program that includes Weber's Bassoon Concerto (with soloist Mark Timmerman), Vaughan-Williams's "Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis," and Respighi's "The Pines of Rome." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

Cris Williamson & Tret Fure: The Ark. See 5 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Everything: Rick's American Cafe. Danceable, groove-oriented brew of funk, rock, jazz, ska, and Latin idioms by this Washington, D.C., sextet that is featured on the new "Aware 3" compilation CD showcasing top unsigned bands from around the country. *10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $3 at the door only. 996–2747.*

FILMS

No films.

7 THURSDAY

★Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor Public Library. See 5 Tuesday. Today's topic: **"Winter Follies."** *9:30–10 a.m., Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. 994–2345.*

★Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center. Also, December 14. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. At 10 a.m., showing of documentary videos. This week's video to be announced. At 11 a.m., **Current Events,** a discussion group led by nonagenarian Ben Bagdade. At 1 p.m., an educational or cultural presentation. This week: Dion Frischer presents a workshop on **"Relieving Stress."** The day concludes with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group** (2 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Book titles to be announced. Also, at 9:45 a.m., coffee and tea with bagels and coffee cake, and at noon, a homemade kosher dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for non-seniors). All invited. *9:45 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. See 6 Wednesday. 11 a.m.

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. Also, December 14 & 21. Today: the **Sine Nomine Singers** perform motets and anthems by Benjamin Britten and other composers. All invited. *Noon–1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church social hall, 1432 Washtenaw. $3 (includes buffet lunch). 662–4466.*

★U-M Residential College Chamber Groups: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art. Maria Kardas Barna directs RC students in vocal and instrumental works. *12:10 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. Every Thursday. A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 9). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CATV guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features one or two speakers (with no more than two graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. "Access

classical music

Violinist Gil Shaham
Stunningly talented

Men dominated violin playing from Paganini to Perlman, but nowadays it's women's work. Most of the younger generation of orchestral violinists are women: check out the string sections of virtually any local or visiting orchestra. Most of the younger soloists are women: check out Victoria Mullova, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, and, preeminently, Anne-Sophie Mutter. Of course, there are a few young male violinists of note—Joshua Bell and Maxim Vengerov, for example—but none has thus far demonstrated the talent and charisma of their female counterparts.

Except Gil Shaham. At twenty-four, Shaham is decidedly of the younger generation of violinists, both temperamentally—witness his exciting stage presence—and technically—ditto his extravagant virtuosity. Shaham's Ann Arbor debut last March, in the excruciatingly difficult Tchaikovsky Concerto with the Moscow Philharmonic, left the audience stunned by the magnitude of his talent. Even more impressive was his natural authority. Unlike so many of his contemporaries, Shaham seems born to the grand manner of violin playing.

The big question remains: Can Shaham fulfill the promise of his talent? While the Tchaikovsky Concerto is incredibly demanding, any player who can surmount its difficulties is bound to astound the crowd. But for his December 9 return engagement at Hill Auditorium, he has chosen a program with less display and more soul. This will be the true test of Shaham's musicianship.

The Beethoven sonata that opens the program is fiery enough, but it is early Beethoven, not a technical showpiece like his Kreutzer Sonata. The Franck sonata that closes the recital is practically an anti-showpiece: with long lyric lines that require the ultimate in legato bowing, it is the apotheosis of inwardness. To play the Franck compellingly, a violinist not only must command technique and temperament; she or he also must summon the spirit of an angel. It will be exciting to find out whether Shaham has that much soul.

—Jim Leonard

Soapbox" shows are aired daily for one week, beginning on Sunday. *2–7 p.m., CTN studio, Fire Station (2nd floor), 107 N. Fifth Ave. at Huron. Free. Reservations accepted Tuesday through Friday of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.*

Chess Clubs: Adventures in Chess. Every Thursday. A chance for young people age 17 & under (3:30–7:30 p.m.) and adults (7–11 p.m.) to play chess with their peers. Chess sets provided. *3:30–11 p.m., Adventures in Chess, 220 S. Main (new location below Elmo's Supershirts). Children's Chess Club: $35 annual membership; $1 for weekly tournaments. Adult Chess Club: $3 per week, or $49 annual membership. 665–0612.*

★**Weekly Meeting: PC Builders Guild.** Every Thursday. All PC users are invited to join this group dedicated to helping members become familiar with and/or overcome their fear of computers, troubleshooting, and building computers. *4–5:30 p.m., Concordia College Library, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. For information, call Scott Burmann at 995–7356 or Suann Dibble at 995–7586.*

"Anniversary Celebration": Kid Kingdom. See 5 Tuesday. Today, a **free soda** to the first 50 kids. 4–8 p.m.

★**Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M music students perform solo and ensemble works for the symphony's largest brass instruments. *5:30 p.m., U-M School of Music Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **saxophone music.** 6–10 p.m.

★**"Pre-Ritual Panic!": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join this local pagan group and learn chants for a December 16 Yule ritual (see listing). *7–9 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–8428.*

★**"Special Needs Friendship Program": Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church.** Also, December 14. All youths and adults invited to join an interfaith program that includes music, Bible lessons, craft activities, and socializing. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. Free. 769–8008.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters.** Every Thursday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Free to visitors. Refreshments available. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., 777 Bldg. cafeteria, 777 E. Eisenhower. Free to visitors. Dues: $36 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $30). For information, call Marsha McDonald at 487–2071.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge.** Also, December 21. All women who have interrupted their careers to care for their children at home are welcome at these networking meetings. This month: discussion of **"Holiday Traditions"** (tonight) and a **holiday party** (December 21). *7–9 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For details, call Margaret at 475–5917.*

4th Annual "Light A Memory": Hospice of Washtenaw/Great Lakes Bancorp. Tree-lighting ceremony in honor of loved ones who have passed away. The public is invited to attend and enjoy refreshments and live music after the ceremony. Guests are encouraged to sponsor a light (suggested donation, $5) or make other contributions to Hospice of Washtenaw, a support organization for those with terminal illnesses and their families. *7 p.m., Great Lakes Bancorp plaza, Division St. between Liberty and Washington. Donations welcome. 741–5777.*

★**"Decorating a Tree for the Birds": Wild Birds Unlimited.** Also, December 9. Wild Birds Unlimited owner Kurt Hagemeister discusses how to decorate yard trees with edible foods for birds and other wild animals. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Wild Birds Unlimited, 2204 S. Main at Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 665–7427.*

★**"Travel Seminar to Nicaragua": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** All interested persons are welcome to learn about a January trip to Juigalpa, Ann Arbor's sister city in Nicaragua. Bring a dessert to share. *7 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 663–1870.*

★**"Living the Full Catastrophe: A Mindfulness-Based Approach to Coping with Stress": Institute for Psychology and Medicine/St. Joseph Mercy Hospital/Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute.** Institute for Psychology and Medicine director Glenn Burdick and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital family practice physician Steve Thiry discuss the local Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program, which is modeled on the mind-body approach pioneered by the nationally acclaimed University of Massachusetts Stress Reduction Clinic. *7–8:30 p.m., Michigan Heart & Vascular Institute Auditorium, 5325 Elliott Ln. (on the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital campus off Huron River Dr.). Free. Reservations required. 973–7377.*

★**"The Medici and the Palazzo Vecchio": U-M Museum of Art.** See 6 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Community Action on Substance Abuse.** All invited to discuss and plan substance abuse prevention activities with this local grassroots volunteer group. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 973–7892.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Jaycees.** All people ages 21–39 are invited to join this organization devoted to promoting leadership training, community service, and individual development. Discussion topics to be announced. Newcomers welcome. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., room 101, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 971–5112.*

★**"Fire Your Boss": Industrial Workers of the World.** Every Thursday. All invited to join an informal roundtable discussion. *7:30 p.m., IWW General Headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Free. 483–3548.*

★**"Healthy (& Tasty) Holiday Eating": People's Food Co-op.** Workshop presented by local whole foods educator and psychotherapist Judy Stone, director of Feeding Your Whole Self. *7:30–9 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769–0095.*

"Acoustic Night": Griff's Jams. Also, December 21. All invited to bring their acoustic instruments to meet other musicians, make music, and have fun. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Griff's Jams, 106 E. Liberty (3rd floor). $2 suggested donation. 761–MUSIC.*

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday. Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd). $3. 769–4324.*

"Oliver!": Young People's Theater. Also, December 8–10. Melissa Ryan directs a cast of youngsters ages 7–18 in Lionel Bart's popular musical adaptation of Dickens's novel about a sweet-natured orphan who falls in with a gang of pickpockets in 19th-century London. The score includes such well-known songs as "Where Is Love?," "Food, Glorious Food," "As Long as He Needs Me," and more. Musical director is Michael Smith; choreography by Rebecca Surmont. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). $7 (children, $5). For reservations, call 996–3888.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Latin American Solidari-**

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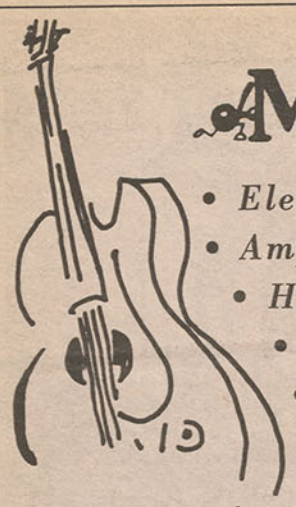

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EVENTS *continued*

ty Committee. Every Thursday. All invited to join this local nonprofit group devoted to supporting the self-determination of Latin American peoples. Program to be announced. *8 p.m., Michigan Union location to be announced. Free. 769–8066.*

★Flaming Pre-Hanukkah Party: Hillel Ahava. The public is welcome at this party for Jewish lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and their friends. *8 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. Free. 769–0500.*

"Oz's Jam": Oz's Music. Every Thursday. All invited to bring their instruments and join jam sessions hosted by different local musicians each week. Tonight: a jazz jam hosted by the **Randy Napoleon Quintet,** a local ensemble led by guitarist Napoleon. *8 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. $1 (performers, free). 662–8283.*

★EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department. These two EMU student ensembles perform contemporary percussion works by David Gillingham and Pulitzer Prize winner Christopher Rouse, as well as arrangements for percussion keyboard ensemble of Gottschalk's "Tournament Galop" and "Contrapunctus IX" from Bach's "The Art of the Fugue." *8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Liz Story: The Ark. This classically trained Windham Hill recording artist is a stunningly virtuosic pianist whose original music blends elements of mainstream jazz, folk, and rock to create vibrantly colorful, emotionally stirring new music. "She strings long melodies through shifting harmonies like rivers streaming down rock paths," says a *Keyboard* magazine reviewer. Her latest recording, "My Foolish Heart," offers fresh interpretations of works by Gershwin, Weill, Kern, and Rodgers & Hart. Story performs tonight with bassist Joel DiBartolo, a former longtime member of the "Tonight Show" band. *8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $13.75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Judy Collins: U-M Office of Major Events. Did you know that Judy Collins is *also* a social activist (she's replaced the late Audrey Hepburn as UNICEF spokeswoman), an Oscar-nominated filmmaker, a movie and TV actress, and a novelist? Still, it's that glorious silvery voice that fans will be coming out for when she returns to Ann Arbor for her first concert here in six years. A true pop chanteuse, Collins has remained a star for more than three decades because of her intelligent musicianship and her impeccable taste in material, which in her case encompasses folk, rock, and musical theater. Her latest release, last year's "Come Rejoice! A Judy Collins Christmas," features highly original renditions of seasonal chestnuts like "Silent Night" and "White Christmas," along with several originals, including the heartfelt ballad "Song for Sarajevo." In concert, she'll likely perform songs she has made her own, such as Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now," Sondheim's "Send in the Clowns," and any of several Dylan songs (she released a Dylan recording in 1993). At Carnegie Hall last year, she sang the obscure Dylan masterpiece "Dark Eyes," which, according to a *New York Times* review, she "examined like a jewel under a clear, bright light." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $22.50 & $27.50 (students, $15) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other TicketMaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS or (810) 645–6666.*

"Damn Rotten Artists: An Evening of Non-Commitment": U-M Dance Department Dance and Related Arts Concert. Also, December 8 & 9. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. The pieces in this year's concert explore themes of restriction, passion, and constriction. These shows usually sell out, so get there early. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only. 763–5460.*

"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Also, December 8–10. *See review, p. 121. This* accomplished local town-and-gown company opens its 49th season with the penultimate collaboration between Gilbert and Sullivan, a typically nonsensical piece that satirizes the foibles of the nobility, actors, and other human beings. A troupe of actors conspires to depose the Grand Duke Rudolph, a notorious tightwad who is reluctant to enter a marriage with the Princess of Monte Carlo because he suspects she's only after his money. The theatrical troupe's leader, Ludwig, persuades the Grand Duke that he can get out of the marriage by giving up his throne for a day, but Ludwig then seizes power for himself. This causes some unforeseen problems for the new duke, however, since the troupe's prima donna actress has a clause in her contract guaranteeing her a perpetual role as leading lady—meaning that Ludwig must promote her to Grand Duchess instead of the woman he truly loves.

"The Grand Duke" followed a reconciliation between Gilbert and Sullivan after a few years' estrangement caused by the so-called "carpet quarrel" (Sullivan was in favor of recarpeting the Savoy Theater; Gilbert, a lawyer and a notorious tightwad, objected to the expense). With its tweaking of lawyers, skinflints, and the theatrical profession, "The Grand Duke" helped serve to sweep the collaborators' past dispute under the rug, as it were. It's a lively show, very tuneful and full of witty banter. Cast includes UMGASS regulars Robert Sherraine, David Zinn, Mitch Gillett, Tricia Klapthor, and Barbara Hilbish. Directed by Mary Locker, with musical direction by Tim Hoover. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets $8–$12 at the Mendelssohn box office or by calling 763–1085.*

Former 10,000 Maniacs lead singer Natalie Merchant appears with her new band at Hill Auditorium, Sun., Dec. 10.

"Antigone": Young Actors Guild. Also, December 8–10. This company of young actors in their teens and twenties presents Jean Anouilh's modern version of Sophocles's classical tragedy set in ancient Thebes. Antigone is a young noblewoman whose brothers have killed one another in a bloody battle for control of the city. Her uncle Creon has assumed the throne and decrees that one brother be buried with full ceremonial honors and the other's body be left to the elements. Believing that family honor and loyalty are more important than the law, Antigone defies her uncle at the cost of her own life. This play is offered in tandem with YAG's production of **"The Government Inspector,"** which runs December 14–17 (see listing). *8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Individual tickets: $7 (children, $5). Tickets to both plays: $12 (children, $8). For reservations, call 663–0696.*

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Barry Neal: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Also, December 8 & 9. Known for the seductively plausible lunacy of his well-crafted observational humor, this L.A. monologuist specializes in the ironies of love and marriage. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $10 (members, $5) reserved seating in advance, $10 (members, free) general*

admission at the door. Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.

FILMS

No films.

8 FRIDAY

★**"December Movies": Ann Arbor Public Library.** Showing of three animated shorts adapted from children's stories, **"Happy Birthday, Moon"** (Frank Asch's story about a bear who mistakes his own echo for the moon's response), **"A Story, A Story"** (Gail Haley's story about Spider Man, who climbs up to the sky to buy stories from the sky god) and **"Leopold, the See-Through Crumb Picker"** (an invisible creature wreaks havoc by eating every crumb in sight). Preschoolers invited. Space limited; first come, first seated. *11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

★**"The *Sakti* Conjecture: A Tentative New View of Balinese 'Religion' ": U-M Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies.** Talk by Princeton University anthropology professor Hildred Geertz. *Noon, Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–0352.*

★**"The Power of Their Ideas: Lessons for America from a Small School in Harlem": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** Deborah Meier, a celebrated educator in town to speak at a forum on the future of public education (see 9 Saturday listing), is on hand to sign copies of her recently published book. Refreshments. *5–7 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Art Night at the Art Center": Ann Arbor Art Center.** A chance to explore the center's gallery and classrooms. Art demonstrations, lectures, and hands-on art projects ($5 materials fee). Refreshments. *6–9:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Free admission. 994–8004.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the Northeast Senior Center's **Get It All Together Band.** 6–10 p.m.

★**Holiday Party: Pittsfield Grange.** All adults & children invited. *6:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Free. 995–5872, 475–2613.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Lake Superior State. *7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $6 & $8 (obstructed-view seats, $3). 764–0247.*

★**Monthly Bardic Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** Instruction in improvisational singing (7–8 p.m.), followed by a jam session (8–11 p.m.) of free-form drumming, singing, and dancing. *7–11 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–8428.*

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Tonight, family-oriented songs by the local quartet **Counterpoint.** 7 p.m.

Family Fun Night: Swing City Dance Studio. See 1 Friday. Tonight: a **Country Barn Dance** featuring round, line, and reel dances, and Appalachian clogging. 7–8:30 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Older Lesbians Organizing.** All invited to a business and planning meeting. Newcomers welcome. The group also hosts a party December 30 (call 428–8824 for details). *7:30 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–4750.*

★**"The December Dilemma": Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** Roundtable discussion of the difficulties at holiday time of raising children in multicultural homes. *7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 665–5761.*

★**Esoteric Lecture Series: Magical Education Council of Ann Arbor.** Discussion of magical and mystical subjects from various traditions. This month: Brighn talks about **"The World Turned Upside Down."** *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 761–1137.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. See 1 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Oliver!": Young People's Theater. See 7 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Expressions. Tonight's topics: **"Does Wisdom Come with the Passing of Time?"** and **"Equity and Balance in My Relationships."** Also, **cards.** Expressions is a 19-year-old independent, nonsectarian social group open to persons of any age, race, occupation, or marital statuses (mostly singles). Discussion topics, led by trained facilitators, are open-ended to encourage self-expression and discussion. *8–8:30 p.m. (registration & socializing), 8:30 p.m. (newcomer introduction), 8:45–10 p.m. (discussion sessions), 10–11 p.m. (refreshments & socializing), First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. $5.25. 930–6361.*

"Drum Circle." See 1 Friday. 8–10 p.m.

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Institute.** Also, December 29. All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book of lectures on *Karmic Relationships*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. The group meets on occasional Fridays. *8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 662–9355.*

★**Bob Hicok: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Poetry reading by **Bob Hicok,** a superb local poet known for his edgy yet elegant poems about touchy social issues and private emotions. His recent book, *The Legend of Light*, won the 1995 Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry. (For more about Hicok, see "Ann Arborites," p. 29.) Following the reading, Hicok signs copies of his books. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**EMU Symphony: EMU Music Department.** Kevin Miller directs this EMU student orchestra in a program to be announced. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Rob Reynolds and Peter Witte direct this U-M student ensemble in Vaughan-Williams's "Toccata Marziale," David Maslanka's "A Child's Garden of Dreams," Arnold Rosner's "Raga," and Roger Nixon's "Fiesta del Pacifico." Also, Steve Rush directs the group in a free improvisation. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

The Nylons: Michigan Theater. Formed in 1979 by three Toronto-based actors and a former member of the Platters, the Nylons are an all-male "rockappella" vocal quartet whose repertoire ranges from swing-era material and doo-wop classics to contemporary material. The group is known for its seamless harmonies and inventive arrangements as well as for a hyperkinetic stage show featuring instant costume changes, dynamic choreography, and dramatic lighting effects. Though initially the Nylons used no instruments other than voices and percussive effects obtained through finger snapping, foot tapping, and thigh slapping, their percussion now also includes tambourines, congas, and electronic drums. Tonight's performance is billed as a "Christmas Show and Greatest Hits." *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $15–$27.50 in advance at Schoolkids', the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other TicketMaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call (810) 645–6666.*

Jorma Kaukonen: The Ark. A founding member of Jefferson Airplane and a leader of the early 70s progressive blues band Hot Tuna, Kaukonen is a brilliant folk guitarist. His repertoire includes lots of finger-picking blues in the style of the Reverend Gary Davis, similarly styled originals, and some songs he wrote for the Airplane, including "Embryonic Journey" and "Good Shepherd." Opening act is **Vance Gilbert,** an African-American singer-songwriter from Cambridge, Massachusetts, who, according to *Boston Globe* reviewer Craig Harris, sings "in a soulful, Al Jarreau–like voice, accompanying himself with heavily syncopated acoustic guitar melodies." *8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $14.75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Alice in Wonder": EMU Theater of the Young. Also, December 9 & 10. EMU drama professor Pat Zimmer directs this revival of Virginia Koste's 1976 adaptation of Lewis Carroll's Alice stories. Koste, an EMU theater professor emerita, has updated her script to focus

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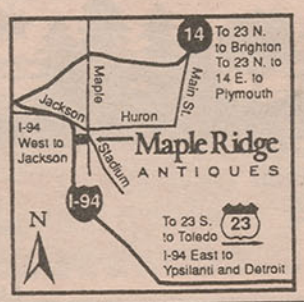

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on Alice as a wonderer, stretching her mind to meet the Cheshire Cat, the loud Duchess, the twin Tweedles, and other characters of her own invention. Aimed at theatergoers age 5 & older. EMU's Theater of the Young, now in its 33rd year, has won several awards, including recognition by the Children's Theater Association of America as one of the country's finest. *8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets $10 (eves.), $8 (matinees), & $5 (children ages 5–13) in advance and at the door. Group discounts available. 487–1221.*

"Damn Rotten Artists: An Evening of Non-Commitment": U-M Dance Department Dance and Related Arts Concert. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Antigone": Young Actors Guild. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Barry Neal: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

CCS. "A Chinese Ghost Story" (Ching Siu-Tung, 1988). A naive young tax collector takes refuge from a sudden rainstorm in a haunted temple, where she falls in love with a beautiful spirit and helps him defeat an evil tree demon. Cantonese, subtitles. FREE. Children under 12 not admitted. AH-A, 8 p.m. **CG. "Harvey"** (Henry Koster, 1950). Charming adaptation of Mary Chase's stage comedy about a gentle eccentric and his imaginary friend. James Stewart. Nat. Sci., 7 p.m. **"The Walls of Malapaga"** (Rene Clement, 1949). Poignant story of a romance between a French fugitive and an Italian woman in postwar Genoa. French, subtitles. Nat. Sci., 8:40 p.m. **"Key Largo"** (John Huston, 1948). A gangster holds hotel guests hostage during a tropical storm. Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall. Nat. Sci. 10:20 p.m.

9 SATURDAY

Winter Antiques Market: Antiques Markets, Inc. Also, December 10, 30, & 31. More than 200 dealers from throughout the Midwest sell a wide range of antiques and affordable collectibles, including furniture, glassware, paintings, jewelry, quilts, and more. No reproductions. Food & refreshments available. *8 a.m.–6 p.m., U-M Coliseum, Hill St. at S. Fifth Ave. $4 (children under 12 accompanied by an adult, free). (800) OLD–N–GOLD.*

Annual Huron Valley Scholastic Championship: Adventures in Chess/Ann Arbor "Y." Chess tournament open to all youths in 12th grade and under. Each participant plays five rounds. Trophies for top 5 finishers overall and in various ability categories. *8:45–9:45 a.m. (registration), 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Ann Arbor YMCA, 350 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $8 in advance, $10 at the door. 665–0612.*

"A Vision for Our Children: Transforming Public Education for a Democratic Society." Sponsored by a group of local parents, teachers, educators, and other concerned citizens, this forum is intended to inspire participants to think about the role of public education and about the way current and proposed changes in its structure will strengthen or undermine its purpose. Keynote speaker is the celebrated educator **Deborah Meier,** author of the recently published *The Power of Their Ideas: Lessons for America from a Small School in Harlem.* For the past 20 years, Meier has been a principal and teacher at Central Park East, a phenomenally successful public high school in East Harlem. *8:45 a.m. (registration), 9:15 a.m.–noon, Tappan Middle School, 2551 E. Stadium. $5 suggested donation. For advance tickets, call 747–9884.*

"Dinosaur Day!": U-M Exhibit Museum. Guided tours of the dinosaur exhibit in the museum's Hall of Evolution. The exhibit features a recently purchased skull of the horned dinosaur Anchiceratops, along with nine other complete and partial skeletons. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $2. (Admission to the museum is free.) 764–0478.*

"Cookie Walk II": First United Methodist Church. Stroll through a cookie bazaar and make your own selections or purchase prepacked assortments. Proceeds benefit international education and medical projects. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free admission. 668–6829.*

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. Also, December 10. A variety of locally made fiber works, including clothing, basketry, hand-spun yarns, quilting, beadwork, and more. Members give demonstrations throughout the day. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 994–5475.*

15th Annual Holiday Open House: David W. Nelson Pottery. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.

★"What Is 90% of the Universe?: The Dark Matter Puzzle": U-M Physics Department "Saturday Morning Physics." See 2 Saturday. Today: U-M physics research scientist Shawn McKee discusses his own and other current research into dark matter. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"Galaxies": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 2 Saturday. 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"). 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("Galaxies").

★"Michigan Drawing": New Art League "Second Saturdays." EMU art historian Richard Rubenfeld discusses the works in the juried All-Michigan Drawing Exhibit currently on display at Ford Hall. *11 a.m.–noon, Ford Hall, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 747–2064.*

"An Old English Christmas": Today's Brass Quintet "Croissant Concert" (Kerrytown Concert House). A popular holiday tradition featuring this brass quintet made up of area professionals. This year's all-English program includes an eclectic mix of works by Purcell, Holst, and Andrew Lloyd Webber and themes from "James Bond" movies, and concludes with a sing-along to Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus. Croissants, coffee, and juice served. *11 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $9 & $12 (children under 12, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company. See 2 Saturday. Today: storyteller **Greg Harris.** 11 a.m.

★"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music. See 2 Saturday. Today: **Annette Bowman** tells holiday stories. 11 a.m.

★Jake Reichbart: Barnes & Noble. Live jazz by this local guitarist. *Noon–3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

Comet the Reindeer: Dixboro General Store. See 2 Saturday. Noon–4 p.m.

★Gil Shaham: Borders Books and Music. This noted young Israeli violinist, who performs tonight at Hill Auditorium (see listing below) meets the public and signs autographs. *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. See 6 Wednesday. Today: Software Etc. representatives present interactive stories for kids ages 3–6. 1 p.m.

★Steel Magnolias vs. Fraser. See 2 Saturday. 1 p.m.

★Monthly Meeting: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth Group. Local teens who are questioning or curious about their sexual identity are invited to an informal, peer-led discussion group. *2–4 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 663–0036.*

★"Decorating a Tree for the Birds": Wild Birds Unlimited. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★Student Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Lynne Tobin and Jan Mattke lead the newly formed Michigan Children of SCORE (Strings, Choral, Orff, Recorder Ensemble), a vocal and instrumental ensemble of area children ages 9–13, in holiday music from around the world. Also, other AASPA students

bluegrass music

Alison Krauss
The Patti Page of bluegrass

She's been winning awards since she was about eleven, and now she's awash in hype and hyperbole. But Alison Krauss lives up to most of it. She's a subtle, lyrical fiddler, she leads the best group of bluegrass ensemble players around, and she has the silvery voice of an angel.

And her modesty is real. She racked up honor after honor at this year's Country Music Association awards show, all on the strength of two singles released to the country market. Music trade professionals experiencing the shock of discovering her talent voted for her over vocalists who had worked Nashville's offices and bars for years. But she was plainly uncomfortable. "This is really weird, guys," she protested repeatedly as she was led to the podium. Amid the scripted puffery, it was a charmingly honest moment.

Krauss appeals to fans of bluegrass, country, and new acoustic music. But she's not quite what she seems, and there's a slickness in her work that's disingenuously hidden. Viewers of the acclaimed bluegrass documentary "High Lonesome" saw her presented as the foremost heir to the great bluegrass tradition, as a child of the mountains carrying forward a pure folk art. But in fact there's considerable resistance to Krauss's music among the bluegrass hard core. That's because her music, graceful though it may be, draws more on 1960's folk-pop than on classic bluegrass's virtuoso drive and great revivalist flight from human nature's dark side.

Krauss's greatest virtuosity these days is displayed not on vocals or fiddle but at the producer's controls. "When God Dips His Pen of Love in My Heart," the self-produced 1993 bluegrass-gospel success she recorded with the Cox Family, lists on its sleeve a recording and mixing engineer, an "additional" engineer, and an assistant to the additional engineer. In many of her recordings, her voice is overdubbed with itself to create the harmony passages. With these electronic tools and her own skillful vocals, Krauss constructs a carefully idealized evocation of rural music's past. Think of her as the Patti Page of bluegrass.

Krauss and her top-notch band, Union Station, come to the Michigan Theater on Sunday, December 10.

—James M. Manheim

and the adult Berkshire Flute Ensemble led by Penny Fischer. *Note:* The AASPA performs a Family Holiday Concert at the Michigan Theater on December 16 (see listing). *2 p.m., Concordia College Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995–4625.*

★**"Slag": Another Bloody Theater Company.** Also, December 10. John Neville Andrews directs this U-M studio workshop production of David Hare's compelling play about the complicated relationships among three women. Also, the group performs "Escape from Happiness" (see 8 p.m. listing below). *2 p.m., Trueblood Theater, U-M Frieze Bldg., 105 S. State. Free. 764–5350.*

"Antigone": Young Actors Guild. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 7 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Oliver!": Young People's Theater. See 7 Thursday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Alice in Wonder": EMU Theater of the Young. See 8 Friday. 2:30 & 8 p.m.

★**"Collision Course: Inside the Battle for General Motors": Little Professor Book Company.** Ann Arborite Mickey Maynard, the *USA Today* Detroit bureau chief, signs copies of her new book about Jack Smith's efforts to rebuild GM. *3 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Today: the **Dexter Community Band.** 3 p.m.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Duke. *3 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★**"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** Monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animated films and TV cartoons. Tonight's program includes episodes from "Please Save My Earth" and "Ushio and Tora," "Only Yesterday," and more. Japanese, subtitles. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one under 18 admitted without an adult. *5–11 p.m., Modern Languages Bldg. Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. 747–1535.*

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Christmas music

The Community "Messiah" Sing
A Christmas gift to ourselves

Concertgoers at the University Musical Society's annual "Messiah" performance are lucky that I stay home each year. I'm one of those people who love the music so much it's hard not to hum along. Ann Arbor's annual Community "Messiah" Sing is the perfect alternative for me and others like me: a chance not just to listen to Handel's much-loved oratorio but to perform it.

The sing began in the early 1950's with a few friends and family members in the home of Margaret and the late Robert Blood. Participation grew until it moved to the Friends Meetinghouse in 1965. Musicians have been part of the sing since its earliest days, and last year's orchestra, recruited by current sing organizer Mary Steffek Blaske, numbered more than thirty.

While the selections vary slightly from year to year, most of the better-known choruses and solos are sung. The solos are sung as a group by the appropriate parts of the chorus. In a soprano solo such as "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth," for example, all the sopranos stand to sing, with any other voices welcome to sing or hum along. The sense of enjoyment and approval is evident as each group has its moment in the spotlight, with hearty applause acknowledging each effort.

Every year I've attended, the soprano, alto, and bass sections fill up nicely, but—perhaps not surprisingly—the tenor section is always underpopulated. As a result, the effort made by those tenors present is invariably greeted with special appreciation, and not a few basses and altos join in to bolster the tenor solos. In all, well over 200 voices came to sing last year.

A break midway lets everyone enjoy cider and Christmas goodies brought by the participants. All are here because they want to be, and it's hard to find an unsmiling face anywhere. My own participation in the sing has become a treasured tradition of the holiday season, a kind of gift to myself.

Last year saw the completion of the beautiful new sanctuary at St. Clare's Church, where acoustics and elbow room have never been better. Indeed, we probably sounded better than we were—thanks not only to the acoustics but also to Robert Pratt, former choral director at Pioneer High, who has led the sing since 1988. Pratt's energetic direction and sense of humor lighten those moments when our lack of rehearsal becomes all too apparent. This year's Community "Messiah" Sing is again held at St. Clare's Church, on Sunday, December 10.

—Mary Carlson-Mason

Chess. See 2 Saturday. 5–11 p.m.

★**"Basic Witchcraft": Magical Education Council of Ann Arbor.** Informal monthly discussion on the Old Religion of Europe. Beginners welcome. *6 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–3522.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the children's choir **Spiritus Sanctus.** 6–10 p.m.

"Ballroom Dancing Night": Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing from waltzes to rumbas, to taped music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Baries, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *7–8 p.m. (instruction), 8–10:30 p.m. (dancing), Pittsfield Twp. Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $3. 996–3056.*

Swingin' A's Square Dance Club. All experienced dancers invited. Thirty minutes of round dances, cued by Chuck Weiss, followed by square dancing (8–10:30 p.m) with caller Dave Walker. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Whitmore Lake High School, 8845 Main St., Whitmore Lake. $8 per couple. 662–8598, 426–5274.*

★**"Mr. B": Borders Books and Music.** Ann Arbor's own world-renowned boogie-woogie and blues pianist gives an in-store performance. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"Oliver!": Young People's Theater. See 7 Thursday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

★**"Art Goes Historical, or Museum Visitors Encounter *The Morning of a New Day*": U-M Museum of Art 1995 Sloan Memorial Lecture.** William Truettner, a senior curator of painting and sculpture at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, discusses Henry Farny's powerful 1907 painting depicting a group of Native Americans watching a train cut through their homeland. In conjunction with "The Interpretation Project," the UMMA's small, experimental exhibition in which visitors are invited to record their reactions to three familiar paintings. *8 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium B. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"Judaism Beyond God": Jewish Community Center. Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine,** who in 1963 founded the Birmingham Temple of Detroit as the first humanistic Jewish congregation,

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talks about his new book, a handbook for celebrating a humanistic Jewish identity. Wine's talk kicks off tomorrow's Jewish Book Fair (see listing). *8 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

Victorian Holiday Ball: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Vintage ballroom and traditional dances, including waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and country dances. Singles and couples of all abilities are welcome. Mid-19th-century attire encouraged but not required. Cost includes two pre-ball workshops today: a beginners' **quadrille and set dances workshop** (1–2 p.m.) and an advanced workshop on the **mazurka quadrille** (2–4 p.m.). Live music and refreshments. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $18. Preregistration required. 429–0014.*

Gil Shaham: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 125.* This 24-year-old violin virtuoso has been called "the romantic violinist's violinist," and it's not uncommon for reviewers to compare him to such masters of the Romantic style as Jascha Heifetz and Itzhak Perlman (for whom he filled in on short notice with the London Symphony Orchestra when he was just 18). He's celebrated for a style that combines colorful, bold expressiveness with bravura technique and a touch of humor. He's accompanied on this recital tour by his sister, 19-year-old pianist **Orli Shaham**, a gifted artist currently studying at Columbia University and the Juilliard School of Music. Program: Beethoven's Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Dvorak's Sonata in F, and Franck's Sonata in A. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $14–$36 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Empatheater: Kerrytown Concert House. This local theater group directed by psychologist Sara Schreiber invites audience members to write down their concerns and life situations, which the actors then use as a basis for improvisation. Schreiber describes the process as "a combination of psychodrama, improvisational theater, and drama therapy." The company also gives dramatic interpretations of poetry. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $8 (students & seniors, $6) at the door. 769–2999.*

★"Escape from Happiness": Another Bloody Theater Company. Also, December 10. John Neville Andrews directs this U-M studio workshop production of George Walker's dark comedy about a dysfunctional family. *8 p.m. Trueblood Theater, U-M Frieze Bldg., 105 S. State. Free. 764–5350.*

10th Annual "Raise the Roof" Fund-Raiser: Performance Network. The nationally acclaimed local "New Vaudeville" clown **O. J. Anderson** and nationally renowned local jeweler **Matthew Hoffmann** co-host this popular annual event showcasing several of Ann Arbor's most creative performing artists, many of whom devise new work especially for the occasion. The sheer abundance and variety of top-notch entertainment usually leaves audiences aesthetically inebriated.

This year's show is highlighted by a performance of vintage American popular songs by the celebrated husband-and-wife duo of mezzo-soprano **Joan Morris** and pianist (and Pulitzer Prize–winning composer) **William Bolcom.** Tonight they perform material from a variety of new projects, including pieces from a forthcoming 2-LP collection of songs by Vincent Youmans, the Gershwin contemporary best known for such Broadway shows as "No, No, Nanette" and "Tea for Two." The musical program also includes original songs by local back-country songwriter **Jay Stielstra** and balladeer **Tracy Komarmy.** Theater pieces include excerpts from "Midlife Crisis," a new show by the Toronto-based feminist musical comedy troupe **Sensible Footwear;** two vignettes from "Human Nature," the popular musical by the local dance-theater troupe **Jesse Richards and Sister Earth;** and something outrageous by **Malcolm Tulip,** a local actor, director, and playwright known for his wonderfully inventive, bracingly idiosyncratic blend of comedy and drama. Also, local singer-songwriter **Dick Siegel** makes his debut as a dancer with local dancer-choreographer **Carmen Moyer** in a performance of a new work by Moyer. The show is followed at 11

The delightfully eclectic midwestern reed ensemble Wizards! gives a lively family-oriented concert, Sun., Dec. 10, at Kerrytown Concert House.

p.m. by a dance party in the the Michigan Theater lobby with the **II-V-I Orchestra,** a popular local swing and R&B big band led by saxophonist David Swain. Also, preferred seating patrons are invited to a buffet reception at 7 p.m. in the Michigan Theater lobby. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $20 (preferred seating, $30 in advance only) in advance at the Performance Network, Schoolkids' Records, and PJ's Used Records & CDs; and at the door. Dance party only: $5 at the door. To charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 7 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Alice in Wonder": EMU Theater of the Young. See 8 Friday. 2:30 & 8 p.m.

"Damn Rotten Artists: An Evening of Non-Commitment": U-M Dance Department Dance and Related Arts Concert. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Gifts of the Magi": The Stage Presence, Ltd. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Barry Neal: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Lonnie Brooks: Rick's American Cafe. Widely heralded as one of the finest of the second generation of postwar Chicago bluesmen, Brooks is a precise, fluid guitarist and a compelling vocalist who blends sharp-edged declamation with soulful singing. His debut solo LP, "Bayou Lightning," was named Montreux Blues Album of the Year in 1979, and in recent years he has released a series of acclaimed LPs on the prestigious Alligator label. His new LP, "Satisfaction Guaranteed," features a deliciously playful duet with Koko Taylor on Brooks's "If the Price Is Right." *10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $6 at the door only. 996–2747.*

FILMS

U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. "Animania." See Events listing above. FREE. MLB 3; 5–11 p.m.

10 SUNDAY

★7th Annual Jewish Book Fair: Jewish Community Center. Display and sale (at retail prices) of more than 2,000 new books by Jewish authors, ranging from cookbooks, expensive gift books, children's books, and reference books to books by local authors and new titles hot off the presses. (Publishers plan their releases for November, which is Jewish Book Month.) Today's special events include a talk by **Rabbi Avraham Jacobovitz** (10 a.m.), founder and director of Machon L'Torah in Oak Park, an independent organization dedicated to Jewish education. He discusses Rabbi Aharon Feldman's Jewish classic, *The River, the Kettle, and the Bird.* Also, **Bette Roth Young** discusses *Emma Lazarus in Her World*, her recently published biography of the 19th-century Jewish poet who wrote the poem inscribed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. Children's programming today includes **Joanne Ladd** as Mother Goose in a storytelling program for preschoolers (11 a.m.–noon), book-related crafts activities (noon–1 p.m. & 3–4 p.m.), and local children's author **Joan Blos** reading from *Brooklyn Doesn't Rhyme* (2–3 p.m.), her new book for kids ages 3–6. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

Winter Antiques Market: Antiques Markets, Inc. See 9 Saturday. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

★"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club. See 3 Sunday. 9 a.m.

★"Lessons and Carols": Lord of Light Lutheran Church. The church choir and an orchestra of instrumentalists from the congregation perform this traditional Advent service. All invited. *10 a.m., Lord of Light Lutheran Church, 801 S. Forest. Free. 668–7622.*

"20th Annual Elmo's Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk": Elmo's Supershirts. More of a tour than a timed run. Meet at the Michigan Theater to divide into small groups, each led by a volunteer "rundeer," for a 45-minute run, jog, or walk through the U-M Diag and Arboretum. The course returns to the Michigan Theater for refreshments, singing, and door prizes. *10 a.m. (registration), 10:15 a.m. (warm-up exercises), 10:30 a.m. (run/walk), Michigan Theater. $1 donation. 994–9898.*

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. See 9 Saturday. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. See 3 Sunday. Today: First Presbyterian minister Lynn Kogel discusses the **"Historical Roots of Advent."** 10:30 a.m.

★"Make Your Own Backyard Ice Rink": Ann Arbor Parks Department. City parks staffers shows how to build and maintain a backyard ice rink. "How to" literature available. *11 a.m., Park Service headquarters, 415 W. Washington. Free. 994–2768.*

★Origami Workshop: Borders Books and Music. Local origami expert Don Shall leads a workshop for all ages on the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper-folding to make animals and other figures. *11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Monthly Meeting: Second Sunday Schmoozers. All Jewish singles invited to meet new friends over brunch. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., Seva Restaurant, 314 E. Liberty. Free (pay for your own food). 973–8699.*

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 3 Sunday. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

★Open House: The Distinctive Touch. A chance to view the collection of fine fossils, crystals, and shells at this gallery, normally open by appointment only. *Noon–6 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd.). Free. 994–3048.*

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 3 Sunday. Noon–5 p.m.

★Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program. See 3 Sunday. 12:30–3:30 p.m.

★"From Papyri to King James: The Transmission of the English Bible": U-M Special Collections Library. Opening reception for this annual exhibit that draws visitors from around the Midwest. The display of rare and ancient Biblical manuscripts from the U-M's outstanding collection includes 2nd-century papyrus fragments of the letters of St. Paul, illuminated medieval manuscripts, and an original leaf from the Gutenberg Bible. Today's events include brief talks on papyri and the history of Bibles (2 p.m.) and showings of films on papyri research (3 & 4 p.m.). *1–5 p.m., U-M Special Collections Library, 711 Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. Free. 764–9377.*

Kids' Open Mike: Oz's Music. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *1 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Minimum donation: 25¢. Call ahead to reserve a space. 662–8283.*

"Wonderful Winter Decorations": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Naturalist Carol Clements leads a hike to gather materials for making and decorating a grapevine wreath. *1–2:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $3 (families, $10). Preregistration required. 662–7802.*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

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More and more women are becoming aware of their anger. Sometimes this is experienced as a terrible burden. Sometimes it is experienced as energizing. We might hear a woman say, "I am really angry." Another might say, "I am absolutely enraged." What is the difference? What difference does it make to know the difference?

Anger is clear and energizing. It is an emotional response to an immediate situation. It motivates the angry person to take action, and leads to some resolution. In contrast, rage is an angry response to a past frustration which is restimulated in the present situation. Rage leads to the same old arguments, which never get resolved.

Why does it matter whether you are feeling anger or rage? If you approach rage as though it is anger, you will get nothing resolved. You will simply repeat the old battles over and over again. Nothing will change. You will get more stuck in your rage and frustration. Only when rage is understood and resolved can a person feel anger and use it productively.

For example, a woman might have feelings about always being the one to change the baby, prepare meals, or plan vacations. The angry woman will be able to talk about the situation in such a way as to promote some change in the arrangements. The enraged woman, on the other hand, will get so caught up in her rage as to become a prisoner of her feelings, unable to act on her own behalf.

If you find yourself being angry a lot, then you are not just angry, you are also enraged. Rage is not helpful. It interferes with productive loving, playing, and working. Resolving your rage and getting access to productive anger is both liberating and empowering.

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gallery review

"Unpainted to the Last: Moby-Dick and American Art"

The omnipresence of the Whale

The Great American Novel was published in 1851. Although it took fifty years to find its audience, by the early part of our century little white whales had begun appearing everywhere: as toys, in restaurants, on posters, as comics, and in the movies. Ahab, Ishmael, Queequeg, and the absence of women became easy symbols for just about anything. Today, the novel has become so pervasive that even people who have never picked it up can express reasoned opinions about Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*.

Many influential American artists have devoted serious attention to images from *Moby-Dick*. Yet the first impression on walking into the UMMA exhibit "Unpainted to the Last: *Moby-Dick* and American Art" is a spine-tingling sense of the book itself.

Made up of some seventy-five prints, paintings, and sculptures, the exhibit is impressively organized. It moves from illustrations of the book, to narrative responses to the story, to abstractions inspired by the novel's mythic stature. There are even a few

humorous works, by artists obviously fed up with all those white whales and the commodity culture they swim through. A photograph by Kim Weston, grandson of the famous photographer Edward Weston, manages to poke fun at both the great white whale and the great white grandfather. Titled "Moby Dick Meets Mr. and Mrs. Avocado," it's an image of two avocados along with the tooth of a sperm whale.

A generous selection of Rockwell Kent's pen-and-ink drawings for the famous 1930 Lakeside Press edition represents the best of the illustrations for *Moby-Dick*. This edition might be the most important illustrated book in American literature and art. Kent's illustrations, luminous with the sense of mystery and moral ambiguity that charges the novel, convinced the art world that his genre could transcend its reputation as commissioned hack work.

An example of narrative responses to *Moby-Dick* is a set of six paintings by Gilbert Wilson, "The Insanity Series." These gouache and pencil pieces trace Ahab's descent into madness, at the same time presenting a catalog of the formal techniques of modern art. After horrifying and electric images of a tormented Captain Ahab, the final piece depicts a kind of cosmic darkness where Ahab's screams have almost disappeared, leaving behind a troubled serenity.

Of the abstractions, Jackson Pollock's "Blue (Moby Dick)" from 1943 may be the most provocative. In this small painting, images from the novel are superimposed upon or transformed into other forms to achieve something reminiscent of cave paintings. The mystery of these brooding images—half hidden, half metamorphosed—suggests the uncertain but very real presence of *Moby-Dick* in our cultural life.

"Unpainted to the Last" remains on display through December 24.

—Keith Taylor

New exhibits this month:

Alexa Lee Gallery. *Passages* (December 1–January 6). See 1 Friday. 663–8800.

Ann Arbor Art Center. *Holiday Gifts* (through December 29). 994–8004.

Ann Arbor Public Library. *Landscape Paintings by Karin Wagner Coron* (December 1–31). *Paintings by Ryan Masuga* (December 1–31). *Tins: Containers as Collectibles, 1950–Present* (December 1–31). *The Animals Came in Two by Two* (December 1–31). *Amnesty International Exhibit* (December 1–31). 994–2333.

Clare Spitler Works of Art. *Love and Hate: The Annual Theme Show* (December 3–January 30). See 3 Sunday. 662–8914.

Michigan Union. *Ann Blackwell* (December 4–17). 764–7544.

Reehill Gallery. *Esther Abate* (December 3–January 7). See 3 Sunday. 663–5503.

U-M North Campus Commons. *AIDS Education Is on Us* (December 1–7). *Chelsea Area Painters* (December 1–17). *2nd Annual Best Ever College of Engineering Staff and Faculty Art Exhibit* (December 11–17). 764–7544.

Washtenaw Community College. *Student Juried Show* (December 4–February 1). See 6 Wednesday. 973–3300.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 1995–1996 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide.

★"Upstairs at Borders": Borders Books and Music. See 3 Sunday. Today: jazz by **The Mark Hynes Trio.** 1 p.m.

★"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 3 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 2 Saturday. 1 p.m.

31sth Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. *See review, p. 131.* All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are welcome to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous Christmas oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semi-professionals, serious amateurs, families, church choirs, etc. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by First Methodist Church chancel choir director Bob Pratt, who was for many years the choral director at Pioneer High. Scores are provided, or participants may bring their own. (The "Prout" edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players bring their own stands. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. *1 p.m. (orchestra reports), 1:15 p.m. (singers report), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665–5964.*

★Ann Arbor Civic Chorus: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art. Rebecca Vlisides directs this local volunteer chorus in seasonal favorites. A popular annual tradition. *1:30 p.m., University Hospital Lobby (1st floor), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"Galaxies": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 2 Saturday. 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 3:30 p.m. ("Galaxies").

★"Kerry Tales: Light a Candle with Mother Goose": Story Time at Kerrytown (Kerrytown Shops/Workbench Furniture). A family-oriented 30-minute program of Mother Goose rhymes and riddles presented by Trudy Bulkley, a former volunteer storyteller with the Ann Arbor Public Library outreach program. *2 p.m., Workbench, 2nd-floor children's furniture area, Kerrytown. Free. 769–3115.*

★Monthly Meeting: Friends of Four-Hand Piano. Pianists of all abilities are welcome to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets, or just to come and listen. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for four-hand and two-piano music. *2 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 663–3942, 665–2811.*

Wizards!: Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates. This quartet of double-reed instrumentalists performs chamber music from the past four centuries on oboe, bassoon, English horn, oboe d'amore, contrabassoon, and piccolo oboe. Performers Mark Weiger, Andrea Gullickson, Blake Duncan, and Greg Morton, all professionals based in the Midwest, put together richly varied and entertaining programs with a wide appeal for audiences of all ages. Today's program includes "Fantasy for Wizards!" co-composed by Morton and Marilynn Etzel, and Michael Curtis's "A Klezmer Wedding," as well as works by George Gershwin, Johann Wenth, and Franz Gustav Lange, and a medley of traditional Christmas carols. Reception follows. *2 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $8 & $12 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

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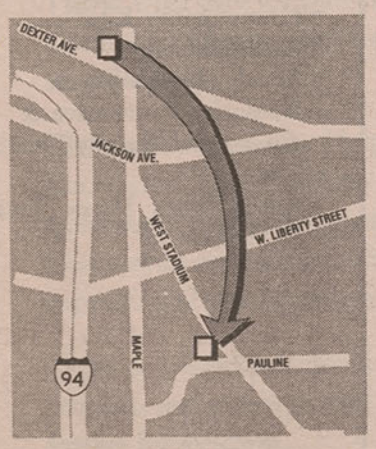

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"The Grand Duke": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Escape from Happiness": Another Bloody Theater Company.** See 9 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art.** See 3 Sunday. Today: **"Michigan Artists and the Quilt."** 2 p.m.

"Oliver!": Young People's Theater. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Ancient Nubia: Egypt's Rival in Africa": U-M Kelsey Museum.** See 3 Sunday. 2:30 p.m.

"Alice in Wonder": EMU Theater of the Young. See 8 Friday. 2:30 p.m.

★**Ypsilanti High School Orchestra: Barnes & Noble.** Holiday music. *3–5 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**36th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: EMU Music Department.** Measure for Measure, a local men's chorus, joins the EMU University Choir, Chamber Choir, and Women's Glee Club to present the Christmas story through a program of alternating text and song adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Leonard Riccinto and Ernest Brandon conduct. *3 & 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Weekly Run: Ann Arbor Hash House Harriers.** See 3 Sunday. 3 p.m.

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Today: the **Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts Junior String Orchestra.** 3 p.m.

★**"Saint Nicolas": First Presbyterian Church Sunday Afternoon Vespers Series.** First Presbyterian Church music director Susan Wilburn conducts the church's chancel choir in Benjamin Britten's setting of the story of St. Nicholas, for adult and children's choirs, tenor, boy soprano, four-hand piano, and orchestra. Also, Christmas anthems, motets, and carols. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

Steve Nardella Benefit: Schoolkids' Records/Rick's American Cafe. Nardella, the great local blues and roots-rock musician, recently underwent thyroid surgery, and like most working artists, he has no health insurance. If you've ever seen him perform, then you know he always gives you more than you actually paid for, so consider tonight's benefit a chance to pay back part of an outstanding debt. He performs tonight with the **Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio,** and the supporting line-up is a virtual who's who of the local blues scene. It includes two of Nardella's former bandmates, boogie-woogie & blues pianist **Mark "Mr. B" Braun** and guitarist **George Bedard,** who appears with his band, the **Kingpins.** Also, the duo of harmonica wizard **Peter Madcat Ruth** and guitarist **Shari Kane,** blues harpist **Lazy Lester,** veteran rockers **Cub Koda** and **Scott Morgan,** the **Steve Springer Band,** the **Howling Diablos,** the **Garfield Blues Band,** and others to be announced. Also, a raffle of items donated by local merchants. *6 p.m.–midnight, Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $10 donation at the door only. 761–9430, 996–2747.*

★**Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris & Sword Dancers.** See 3 Sunday. 6–8 p.m.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Farmer John Barnyard Show.** 6–10 p.m.

★**"Murder on the Second Sunday": Little Professor Book Company.** All are invited to join this monthly murder mystery reading group. Tonight's selection to be announced. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. For information, call Margaret Yang at 769–4879.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Amnesty International Ann Arbor Community Group.** All invited to join this new local chapter of Amnesty International, a group that works on behalf of prisoners of conscience around the world. This month's agenda to be announced. *7–8 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 973–7004.*

Madagascar-born sisters Hanitra and Noro lead their internationally popular quartet Tarika in acoustic Malagasy roots music featuring catchy melodies and infectious syncopation. You can catch them at the Ark, Tues., Dec. 12.

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Classical Guitar Society.** All classical guitar players and enthusiasts are invited to join this group for an evening of conversation, listening to recordings, and solo and ensemble playing. Held at the home of club founders Brian and Mary Lou Roberts. *7 p.m., 1451 Bemidji Dr. (off Crest from W. Liberty). Free. 769–5704.*

★**The Grail Singers: SKR Classical.** Gregorian chant and polyphony by this local all-female choir. The group recently released a CD, "A Woman's Celebration of Chant and Harmony," on the SKR Classical label. *7 p.m., Schoolkids, 539 E. Liberty. Free. 995–5051.*

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 3 Sunday. 7–9:30 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Antigone": Young Actors Guild. See 7 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"An Evening of Ballroom Splendor": U-M Ballroom Dance Club. Ballroom dancing to recorded music played by DJ Dorian Deaver. All couples and singles invited. *7:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $10 (members, $5). 213–2208.*

★**Adventure Night: Bivouac Adventure Travel.** See 3 Sunday. Tonight: Bivouac Adventure Travel staff member Alex Davis discusses **"Alaska: Wildlands & Wildlife."** 8 p.m.

Natalie Merchant: U-M Office of Major Events. After more than a decade as the former lead singer for the highly acclaimed 10,000 Maniacs, Natalie Merchant has gone solo with her distinctively otherworldly, almost ghostly voice. Her solo debut, "Tigerlily," is a collection of highly personal songs with a sound that is "more piano-etched and more demanding, recalling the subtle side of Van Morrison," according to a *Boston Globe* reviewer. The songs range from the melancholy "Beloved Wife," (for her widowed grandfather) to "River" (a tribute to the late River Phoenix) to the hit single "Carnival" (a reflection on the pressures of fame). Touring with a pared-down, 3-member band, Merchant also performs some of her old Maniacs songs, accompanying herself on piano. Opening act is **The Innocence Mission,** a fast-rising folk-rock flavored band from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. *7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $25 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other TicketMaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS or (810) 645–6666.*

★**Hindemith Centennial Chamber Recital No. 2: U-M School of Music.** U-M music faculty perform woodwind and piano sonatas by

the famous German-born modernist composer. Performers are bassoonist Richard Beene, pianists Siglind Bruhn and Anton Nel, flutist Leone Buyse, clarinetist Fred Ormand, and oboist Harry Sargous. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

Alison Krauss & Union Station: The Ark/U-M Office of Major Events. *See review, p. 129.* This acclaimed bluegrass band is led by vocalist, songwriter, and former fiddle prodigy Krauss, a 2-time Grammy winner who was named 1995 Female Vocalist of the Year by the Country Music Association. "The heavenly trill of Alison Krauss makes such mellifluous songbirds as Emmylou Harris and Iris DeMent sound earthbound," says *Rolling Stone*. Her latest LP, "Now That I've Found You: A Collection," a showcase of Krauss's remarkable versatility, includes everything from gospel collaborations with the Cox Family to covers of the Beatles and Bad Company. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $18.50–$27.50 in advance at Schoolkids', the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Annual Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash: First Unitarian Church. This popular annual tradition features piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with some boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. The lineup of top-notch local performers includes pianists **Jim Dapogny**, **Bill Albright**, and **Bob Seeley**, the piano and vocal duo of **Bill Bolcom** and **Joan Morris**, and others to be announced. *8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Tickets $10 (students, $6) at the door only. 665–6158.*

Israeli Dancing: Hillel. See 3 Sunday. 8 p.m.

★**"Slag": Another Bloody Theater Company.** See 9 Saturday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

No films.

11 MONDAY

"Hansel & Gretel": Wayne State University Opera/Musical Theater Department. Francis Brockington directs members of WSU's highly acclaimed opera theater program in Engelbert Humperdinck's popular opera based on the well-known folktale. The 75-minute production is suitable for children. *9 & 11 a.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $2. 677–5090, 677–5039.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** See 4 Monday. 10 a.m.

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** See 4 Monday. 10:30 a.m.–noon.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** 6–10 p.m.

★**General Meeting: Working Writers Group.** Newcomers are welcome to join this group that provides support and critiques for writers interested in publishing their poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. Observers also welcome. *7–9 p.m., 2910 Marshall. Free. For information, call Dale at 973–0776 or Sylvan at (810) 471–0188.*

★**Monthly Meeting: International Workers of the World.** All invited to learn about the activities of this radical, uncompromising labor union that's better known as the Wobblies. *7:30 p.m., IWW General Headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Free. 483–3548.*

★**"Christmas in the Trenches": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table Monthly Meeting.** Tom Nanzig discusses the observance of holidays in Civil War–era winter encampments. All invited to join this group which meets monthly to discuss the Civil War and works for the preservation of historic battlegrounds. *7:30 p.m., Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness St., Dexter. Free. 930–0617, 973–6273, or 973–1047.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M A-Squares. See 4 Monday. 7:30–10 p.m.

★**"The Chiropractic Story": Network Chiropractic Center.** Talk by local chiropractor Rob Koliner. *8 p.m., Network Chiropractic Center, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 761–5908.*

★**"Organ Music by 20th-Century French Composers": U-M School of Music.** U-M organ students perform works by Dupre, Langlais, Messiaen, and Tournemire on the century-old Hill Auditorium organ. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

Philip Dikeman and Anton Nel: Kerrytown Concert House. Recital by flutist Dikeman, the assistant principal of the DSO, and U-M piano professor Nel, an award-winning performer and gifted accompanist. Includes works by LeClair, Gaubert, Taktakishivili, Bozza, Gliere, and Liebermann. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $7 & $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★**Writers Series: Guild House.** Reading by Ypsilanti poet **Kurt Lindemann** and a showing of Panoptic Film/Video's new feature film, **"Marwood's Ghost"** (Anthony Reed, 1995), a Victorian-era ghost-story comedy written by local poet Ken Cormier. *8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.*

FILMS

MTF. "Double Happiness" (Mina Shum, 1995). Through December 16. Wry comedy about a young Chinese-Canadian woman torn between her traditional parents' expectations and her desire to be an actress. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Citizen Kane"** (Orson Welles, 1941). Also, December 14. Classic epic about the rise and fall of an ambitious newspaper executive. Orson Welles. Mich., 9 p.m.

12 TUESDAY

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor Public Library.** See 5 Tuesday. This week's topic: **"Birthdays."** *9:30–10 a.m., west branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2053 Jackson Rd.; and 4–4:30 p.m., main library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

★**Morning Coffee: Coterie-Newcomers Club of Ann Arbor.** Informal; children welcome. Coterie is open to all women who have moved or returned to the Ann Arbor–Ypsilanti area. *10 a.m.–noon, location to be announced. 434–6309.*

★**"The International Women's Conference in Beijing": U-M Intergenerational Women's Group.** U-M psychology grad student Joan Ostrove reports on her experiences at the conference held in China this fall. Women of all ages are welcome. *10 a.m.–noon, Turner Geriatric Clinic, 1010 Wall St. Free. 764–2556.*

Distinguished Lecture Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program. Fourth in a series of eight monthly lectures by different U-M scholars. Open to anyone age 55 & older. Today: U-M atmospheric, oceanic, and space sciences professor James Walker discusses **"Causes & Consequences of Climate Change."** Other future topics in this extremely varied series include the role of the historian, the economics of education in Brazil, the evolution of English pronunciation, and classical music theory. *10 a.m., Kellogg Eye Center auditorium, 1000 Wall St. $35 (LIR members, $30) for the 8-lecture series. 764–2556.*

★**"Awaken Your Light Body."** See 5 Tuesday. 10–11:30 a.m. & 7–8:30 p.m.

★**"Public Art in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County": Ann Arbor Public Library "Booked for Lunch."** Local art historian **Martha Keller** presents a slide-illustrated talk based on her recent book. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 8. *12:10–1 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2342.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **saxophone music.** 6–10 p.m.

★**Annual Luminaria Display and Caroling Party: Glacier Hills Retirement Center.** Some 1,000 luminaria (traditional Mexican Christmas lights) create a Christmas glow at this community sing-along. Refreshments. All welcome. *7–8 p.m., Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd. Free. 769–9410.*

★**"Origami Fun!": Ann Arbor Public Li-**

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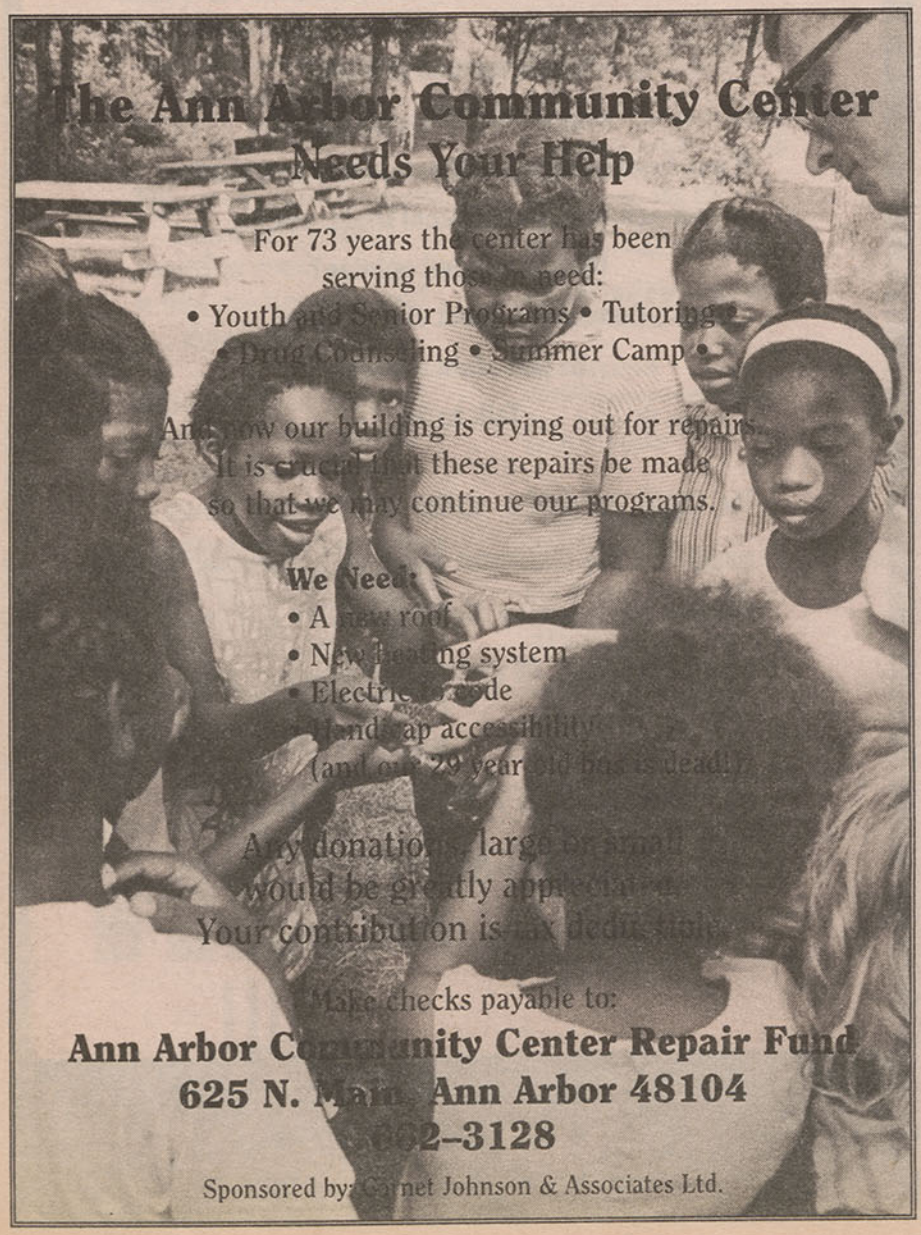
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brary. Local origami expert Don Shall presents another of his popular family-oriented workshops introducing the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Kids under 5 must be accompanied by an adult to assist them. Supplies provided. *7–8 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–2345.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Magicians Club.** All amateur and professional magicians invited to discuss and practice principles of illusion. Beginners welcome. *7 p.m., location to be announced. Free to first-time visitors ($10 annual dues). For information, call Jeff Boyer at (313) 532–5333.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Area Knitters Club.** Also, December 26. Knitters of all levels of experience are invited to join this group that meets monthly to knit together and share techniques and ideas. *7–9 p.m., Brookhaven Manor Retirement Community, 401 Oakbrook Dr. Free. 971–0013.*

★**"Natural Pet & Animal Care": People's Food Co-op.** Panel discussion with Sarahjane Velick, founder of Sojourner Farms natural pet foods; Hermione Gorney, a herbalist and homeopathic expert who specializes in horse care; and Betsy Adams, a local animal care consultant. *7–9 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769–0095.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** See 5 Tuesday. Tonight: a holiday pizza party and video watching. 7 p.m.

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Tonight: the barbershop quartet **County Connection.** 7 p.m.

★**"Update on Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** Talk by Bir Zeit University sociology professor Salim Tamari. *7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church Wesley Lounge, 120 S. State. Free. 663–1870.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Amnesty International Ann Arbor Group 61.** All invited to join this group that works on behalf of prisoners of conscience around the world. This month's agenda to be announced. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Welker Room. Free. 668–0660.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Washtenaw Atari Users Group.** This month's topic: **"Games."** Open to all computer users, Macintosh and Windows as well as Atari. The club is attempting to expand its scope to include support for the entire range of computer uses, from the Internet to desktop publishing to CD-ROMs. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Colonial Lanes meeting room, 1950 South Industrial. Free. 971–8576.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Washtenaw County Association for Infant Mental Health.** Alana Voight, a community devlopment specialist at the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health in Lansing, discusses **"Political Advocacy for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families."** All invited. This group is an interdisciplinary organization of people interested in supporting families with young children. *7:30 p.m., Dr. John Gall's office, Liberty Medical Complex, 3200 W. Liberty (just east of Wagner Rd.). Free. 668–6290.*

★**"Healing Body, Mind, Spirit": Ancient Formula.** See 5 Tuesday. Tonight: Charles Perry discusses **"Shaman, Heal Thyself: Adventures Using Native American Traditions."** 7:30 p.m.

★**"The Foundation of All Perfection": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** See 5 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Dorothy Winbush Riley: Borders Books and Music.** This Detroit elementary school principal discusses and signs copies of her book *The Complete Kwanzaa: Celebrating Our Cultural Harvest*, a comprehensive guide to the cultural roots of this African-American winter holiday. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Folk Dancing: U-M Folk Dance Club.** Ethnic dancing, with an emphasis on Eastern European and Middle Eastern line dances. Lots of easy dances; also requests. All invited; no partner needed. Beginners and onlookers welcome. Refreshments available. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Leonardo's, North Campus Commons, Bonisteel at Murfin. Free. 764–7544, 662–5253.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Don Theyken, Sandy Vielmo, and Erna-Lynne Bogue teach historical and traditional dances from England, with live music. All dances taught; new dancers welcome. No partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and casual attire. *7:30–10 p.m., Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.). $4 donation. 663–0744, 426–0261.*

Weekly Meeting: Eye of the Spiral. See 5 Tuesday. 8–10 p.m.

Tarika: The Ark. Acoustic Malagasy roots music with catchy melodies and infectious syncopation by internationally popular quartet led by two singer-songwriter sisters, Hanitra and Noro. *8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. See 5 Tuesday. 8:30–11:30 p.m.

★**Speed Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** See 5 Tuesday. 9 p.m.

Drop-In Hockey Practice: Steel Magnolias. Also, December 19 & 30. All women age 18 and older are welcome to join this independent women's ice hockey team, which scrimmages with other area teams. (See 2 Saturday for this month's schedule). No experience necessary. Bring your own skates, stick, and helmet. *9:15 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. Rink fee: $8. For information, call Susan at 485–3231.*

FILMS

MTF. "Double Happiness" (Mina Shum, 1995). Through December 16. Wry comedy about a young Chinese-Canadian woman torn between her traditional parents' expectations and her desire to be an actress. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Canadian Bacon"** (Michael Moore, 1995). Also, December 13. Satire in which a U.S. president declares war on Canada to boost his popularity. Mich., 9 p.m.

13 WEDNESDAY

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor Public Library.** See 5 Tuesday. This week's topic: **"Birthdays."** *9:30–10 a.m., Loving Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt); and 6:30–7 p.m., main library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

★**"Vienna 1900": U-M Museum of Art.** Also, December 14. Hour-long documentary examines the interactions of artists Klimt and Schiele and composers Schoenberg and Mahler in turn-of-the-century Vienna. *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: Gini Robison directs the local **Women's Chamber Chorus** in a program of three John Rutter carols: "Rocking," "King Jesus Hath a Garden," and "Lute Book Lullaby." Organ accompanist is U-M music professor **Marilyn Mason.** 12:15–12:45 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 6 Wednesday. 3:30–5:15 p.m.

2nd Wednesday Supper Forum: Guild House. Beans and rice dinner followed by **"Lessons from Beijing: Implementing the Platform for Action at Home,"** a talk by Alan and Odile Haber, two local peace and justice activists who attended the recent UN Conference on Women held in China. *5:15 p.m. (dinner), 6 p.m. (talk), Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. $5 suggested donation. 662–5189.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Get It All Together Band.** 6–10 p.m.

Holiday Hockey Tournament: Huron High School. Also, December 15 & 16. Round-robin tournament. Tonight: Pioneer vs. Livonia Churchill (7 p.m.) & Huron vs. Dexter (8:30 p.m.). *7 & 8:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4. 761–7240.*

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Tonight: song and dance by the **Saline High School Varsity Blues.** 7 p.m.

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** See 6 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club.** Speaker and topic to be announced. All invited to learn about the activities of local ham radio operators. The club boasts about 120 members, and monthly meetings include discussion of the technical aspects of radio operation and of public service activities, such as monitoring weather conditions and providing emergency communication at public events. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army Citadel, 100 Arbana at W. Huron. Free to visitors ($20 annual dues for those who join). 665–6616.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Creation Spirituality.** See 6 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** See 6 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club.** See 6 Wednesday. 7:30–11 p.m.

★**"Transformations: Personal and Planetary Healing": LifeTouch Healing Community.** See 6 Wednesday. Tonight: local therapist Sara Schreiber discusses **"Empatheater: Psychodrama Onstage."** 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Double Happiness" (Mina Shum, 1995). Through December 16. Wry comedy about a young Chinese-Canadian woman torn between her traditional parents' expectations and her desire to be an actress. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Canadian Bacon"** (Michael Moore, 1995). Satire in which a U.S. president declares war on Canada to boost his popularity. Mich., 9 p.m.

14 THURSDAY

★**"International Day": International Neighbors.** Holiday music by members of the Music Group of the U-M Faculty Women's Club. International Neighbors is a 36-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Its membership currently includes 906 women from 81 countries. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *9:30–11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 663–6472, 663–7897.*

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor Public Library.** See 5 Tuesday. Today's topic: **"Birthdays."** *9:30–10 a.m., Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. 994–2345.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** See 7 Thursday. Today's special programs: a video documentary to be announced (10 a.m.) and **"Maintaining Balance in Your Life"** (1 p.m.), a talk by Neal Alexander, a U-M geriatric physician who also leads the popular klezmer band Ethnic Connection. 9:45 a.m.

"Teaching and Interpretation in the Bach Well-Tempered Clavier": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Lecture-demonstration by German-born pianist Siglind Bruhn, a visiting U-M music instructor. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $3 (members, free). 665–5346.*

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** See 6 Wednesday. 11 a.m.

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. See 7 Thursday. Today: Seasonal music for flute and piano by pianist **Jean Schneider** and her sister, flutist **Marilyn Welch.** Noon–1 p.m.

★**Counterpoint: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.** Annual holiday concert by this U-M Hospital employee vocal and instrumental ensemble. Some songs are interpreted in signed English. *12:30 p.m., University Hospital Lobby (1st floor), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Holiday Celebration: American Association for Retired Persons.** All seniors (age 50 or older) invited to enjoy refreshments, games, and a sing-along led by accordionist Toni Buffmyer. Bring a wrapped gift to be donated to a needy child (please label for age and gender). *1:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. Free. 971–5645.*

★**Holiday Party: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** All seniors age 55 & older invited to a party featuring a performance by the Huron High School Chorus. Refreshments. *2 p.m., Kellogg Eye Center 20/20 Cafe, 1000 Wall St. Free. Reservations required. 764–2556.*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** See 7 Thursday. 2–7 p.m.

Chess Clubs: Adventures in Chess. See 7 Thursday. 3:30–7 p.m. (youths age 17 & under) & 7–11 p.m. (adults).

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: a demonstration by **Bird Rescue of Huron Valley.** 6–10 p.m.

★**"A Festival of Dance": Washtenaw Community College.** WCC dance students perform in a variety of dance styles. *7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.*

★**"Past Lives, Dreams, and Soul Travel": Eckankar Center of Ann Arbor.** Presentation by local members of Eckankar, which calls itself "the religion of the light and sound of God." *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library Conference Room A (4th floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 995–7614.*

★**"Vienna 1900": U-M Museum of Art.** See 13 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Experimental Aircraft Association.** All who share an interest in aircraft and aviation techniques are welcome at the meetings of this local chapter of a national organization that sponsors the nation's largest air show every August in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Program to be announced. *7:30 p.m. sharp. Meet at Ann Arbor Airport Terminal Bldg., 801 Airport Dr. (off S. State just south of I-94). Free. For information, call George Hunt at 475–1553.*

★**"Fire Your Boss": Industrial Workers of the World.** See 7 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. See 7 Thursday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Ski Club.** All invited to learn about the ski club's outings and other social activities. Members must be 21 or older. *8 p.m., Schwaben Halle, 217 S. Ashley. Free. 761–3419.*

"The Gathering": Griff's Jams. Also, December 28. All invited to discuss love, life, art, culture, and politics. Artists and writers are also encouraged to share their current work. Usually followed by a musical jam session. Bring your own instruments and refreshments to share. *8–10:30 p.m., 106 E. Liberty (3rd floor). $2.50 donation (free to first-time visitors). 665–7620, 761–MUSIC.*

"Oz's Jam": Oz's Music. See 7 Thursday. Tonight: an "anything goes" open jam hosted by local jazz bassist John Ballou. 8 p.m.

Benefit Concert: Names Project/AIDS Quilt Foundation Concert. Triple bill featuring funk by the **Lapdogs**, folk rock by **The Still**, and horn-driven funk-rock party music, in the tradition of early James Brown and Funkadelic, by **The Bucket.** Proceeds to fund AIDS education and prevention. *8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets (prices to be announced) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Government Inspector": Young Actors Guild. Also, December 15–17. Hilary Ramsden directs a cast of young actors in their teens and 20s in Nikolai Gogol's 1836 stage masterpiece, a satire of small-town corruption whose shrewd depiction of human folly still possesses a contemporary bite. Ramsden relies heavily on body language and physical comedy to tell the story of a penniless impostor who is mistaken for a high-ranking government official and manages to hoodwink an entire town. The play's biting realism proved too much for Gogol's contemporaries, whose vicious attacks on the playwright caused him to flee Russia for more than a decade. This play is offered in tandem with YAG's production of **"Antigone,"** which runs

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EVENTS *continued*

December 7–10 (see listing). *8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Individual tickets: $7 (children, $5). Tickets to both plays: $12 (children, $8). For reservations, call 663–0696.*

"Les Liaisons Dangereuses": Medea Theater Troupe. Also, December 15–17. U-M theater senior Camilo Fontecilla directs fellow students in Christopher Hampton's tragicomedy about two members of the 18th-century French aristocracy who mercilessly manipulate those around them, before finally becoming ensnared in their own machinations. This production is set in America in the Roaring 20s, which Fontecilla says bears a striking resemblance to France in the 1780s: "In both, you have the height of decadence, to be followed by Depression." *8 p.m., Trueblood Theater, Frieze Bldg., 105 S. State. $12 (students, $6) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all TicketMaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS or (810) 645–6666.*

"The Government Inspector": Young Actors Guild. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Margaret Smith: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Also, December 15 & 16. This very funny L.A. monologuist is known for her jaded irreverence and acerbic feminist edge. A frequent guest on Letterman and other TV shows, she won the 1995 American Comedy Award as "Best Female Stand-Up Comic." Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $12 (members, $6) reserved seating in advance, $12 (members, free) general admission at the door. Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Citizen Kane" (Orson Welles, 1941). Classic epic about the rise and fall of an ambitious newspaper executive. Orson Welles. Mich., 4:30 p.m. **"A Month by the Lake"** (John Irvin, 1995). Also, December 16. In the 1930s, a spinster photographer travels to Lake Como hoping to find love. Vanessa Redgrave. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Double Happiness"** (Mina Shum, 1995). Through December 16. Wry comedy about a young Chinese-Canadian woman torn between her traditional parents' expectations and her desire to be an actress. Mich., 9:15 p.m.

15 FRIDAY

★"December Movies": Ann Arbor Public Library. Showing of **"Rikki Tikki Tavi,"** a 30-minute animated adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's story about a heroic mongoose. Preschoolers invited. Space limited; first come, first seated. *11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

★Women's Chamber Chorus. Gini Robison directs this independent local women's chorus in a program of familiar Christmas carols. *Noon, Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. Free. 677–0678.*

★"Bridges to Cuba": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party. U-M anthropology and women's studies professor Ruth Behar is on hand to sign copies of this recently published collection of essays she edited. She also signs copies of *Women Writing*, a collection of feminist essays on women writers that she co-edited. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the barbershop quartet **Harmony 4 Fun.** 6–10 p.m.

"Moonlight Serenade": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Cross-country skiing along groomed and lighted paths. Weather permitting. *6:30–9:30 p.m., Huron Hills Ski Center, 3465 E. Huron River Dr. at Huron Pkwy. $2.50 trail fee. Ski rentals available (adults, $6; youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $3.75). 971–6840.*

Holiday Hockey Tournament: Huron High School. See 13 Wednesday. Tonight: Huron vs. Livonia Churchill (7 p.m.) & Pioneer vs. Dexter (8:30 p.m.).

★Monthly Bardic Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join an evening of free-form drumming, singing, and dancing. *7–11 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–8428.*

Family Fun Night: Swing City Dance Studio. See 3 Friday. Tonight: a **Holiday Dance Party** featuring ballroom dances for all ages. 7–8:30 p.m.

★"A Dickens of a Christmas": Little Professor Book Company. Grosse Ile actor-playwright **Mark McPherson** appears as Charles Dickens in a lighthearted re-creation of the Victorian novelist on one of the lecture tours that made him famous in his own time. He reads excerpts from Dickens's classic "A Christmas Carol" and discusses the origins of various Christmas traditions. *7–8:30 p.m., Little Professor Book Company, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★Monthly Meeting: Professional Volunteer Corps. All singles 25 and older invited to join this organization that provides volunteers for various community projects. Each month, members vote on which service projects to sponsor and plan upcoming social outings. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing and orientation for newcomers. *7:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 747–6801.*

★Monthly Meeting: Viva Ventures. All physically active seniors (age 50 and over) are welcome to join this group to plan hiking, biking, canoeing, camping, skiing, white-water rafting, or hot-air balloon excursions. Tonight's planning topics to be announced. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. For information, call Bud Tracy at 663–3077.*

WomanSpirit Ritual Celebration: Goddess Studies. All women invited to celebrate the waning half-moon with Tarot readings, drumming, and singing by candlelight. Participants encouraged to wear black and white. Bring a snack to share. *7:30 p.m., 1402 Hill at Olivia. $5. For reservations, call 665–5550.*

★Monthly Meeting: University Lowbrow Astronomers. Speaker and topic to be announced. *7:30 p.m., 807 Dennison Hall, 501 East University. Free. 426–2363.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. See 1 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★"Holiday Concert": Dexter Community Band. David Angus conducts this volunteer ensemble in a program of seasonal music. Also, a visit by Santa & friends. *7:30 p.m., Wylie Middle School, 3060 Kensington, Dexter. Free. 426–4734.*

"Calvin's Completely Mixed-Up Dream": The Pennywhistle Players (Young People's Theater). Wendy Mulhauser directs this newly formed company of children ages 5–9 in their inaugural production, an original show inspired by the "Calvin and Hobbes" comic strip, created by the young actors themselves in 8 weeks of discussion and improvisation. *7:30 p.m., Abbot Elementary School, 2670 Sequoia. $2 at the door. 996–3888.*

"Drum Circle." See 1 Friday. 8–10 p.m.

★Musical Theater Workshop: U-M School of Music. U-M musical theater students perform excerpts from the Broadway stage. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

"What Sweeter Music": Vocal Arts Ensemble. MSU choral conducting grad student Margaret Bragle directs this a cappella chorus of 18 area singers in music by Rachmaninoff, Poulenc, and Arvo Part, as well as seasonal madrigals and carols. *8 p.m., Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. (off Washtenaw one block south of Geddes). $9 (students & seniors, $6) in advance or at the door. 996–9635.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. Also, December 16 & 17. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. Approximately 150 dancers from children to adults appear in the production. Principal dancers are **Rachelle Nicholas** and **Janelle Abbott,** who alternate in

the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy, and **Job Christiansen** as the Cavalier. Other soloists include 14-year-old Community High School student **Martha Luitje** and 14-year-old Huron High student **Audrey LaVallee**, who alternate as Clara, and U-M freshman **Joe Wojczynski,** a member of the Grand Rapids Ballet, as the Nutcracker. The ballet is performed to live music by the Michigan Sinfonietta, directed by **Leo Najar.** *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $15 (children, $7) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. Group rates available. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Les Liaisons Dangereuses": Medea Theater Troupe. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Government Inspector": Young Actors Guild. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Margaret Smith: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

"Holiday Lights Dance": Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are welcome at this dance and social occasion. Recorded music played by a DJ from Dance Company. Cash bar. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Ann Arbor Elks Club, 325 W. Eisenhower. $6 (PWP members, $4). 973–1933.*

FILMS

MTF. "Double Happiness" (Mina Shum, 1995). Also, December 16. Wry comedy about a young Chinese-Canadian woman torn between her traditional parents' expectations and her desire to be an actress. Mich., 7 p.m. **"The Usual Suspects"** (Bryan Singer, 1995). Also, December 16. Suspense tale about a group of five con men caught up in a "job" that quickly gets out of control. Mich., 9 p.m.

16 SATURDAY

49th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into eight regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced bird-watchers is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small ($5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird*. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at a WAS member's home this evening. *6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Nancy French at 426–3068. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or 665–7427.*

★**"Morning Birdwalk": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads a birding program that includes some hiking and some driving to various bird habitats. *8 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★**Monthly Meeting: MacTechnics.** All Macintosh computer users are invited to join this networking organization. Small groups representing more than a dozen special interests meet concurrently to share tips and information. Beginners welcome. Coffee and socializing. *9 a.m.–noon, Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Bldg., Beal Ave. (off Bonisteel Blvd.), North Campus. Free. 662–8697.*

★**"Coming Home for the Holidays": Women's Aglow Fellowship.** Local members of this women's international organization offer a program of music and drama about Jesus. All welcome. No child care available. *10–11:30 a.m., Domino's Farms Ulrich Room, Lobby E, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Freewill offering. For information, call Jeannie at 761–1893.*

Winter Magic Arts & Crafts Show: Daylily Promotions. Some 75 juried artisans offer woodcrafts, paintings, jewelry, clothing, silk and dried flowers, baskets, pottery, stained glass, toys, and more for sale. Food concessions. Music by the WCC Jazz Combos. Hourly door prize drawings for $25 gift certificates. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Admission $2 (children under 10, free). 971–7424.*

"The Card Show": Ann Arbor Community Center/Youth Services. Some 20–30 card dealers from throughout Michigan and out of state offer a vast array of sports and other collector cards. Selected cards are auctioned off at the end of the day. Door prizes include a $25 "shopping spree" good at any of the dealer tables. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Admission $1. 662–3128.*

★**"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications.** See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.

★**"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"Galaxies": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 2 Saturday. 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("Galaxies").

★**"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company.** See 2 Saturday. Today: Patti Meador tells **Christmas Stories.** 11 a.m.

Comet the Reindeer: Dixboro General Store. See 2 Saturday. Noon–4 p.m.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Washington. *1 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★**"Winter Discovery Hike/Ski": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Chris Wood leads a hike or cross-country ski (weather permitting) to explore the woods in winter. *1 p.m., Gerald Eddy Geology Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Geology Center is on the left.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: Software Etc. representatives present interactive stories for kids age 5 through adult. 1 p.m.

★**Steel Magnolias vs. Inkster.** See 2 Saturday. 1 p.m.

★**"On the Whitetail's Trail": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner presents a short indoor program on the whitetail deer, followed by a hike along deer trails to look for them or signs of their presence. *2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Oak Meadows Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★**Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join a pagan ritual celebrating the winter solstice, with singing, poetry, chanting, and more. *2–5 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 665–8428.*

★**"Vivid": Little Professor Book Company.** Belleville author Beverly Jenkins signs copies of her latest romance novel. *2 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**"Filipinizing Colonial Institutions: Education and Health in the Rural Philippines": U-M Philippines Study Group.** Talk by locals Martha and Les Adler. *2–4 p.m., Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–0352.*

Family Holiday Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Seasonal performance by ensembles from this school for young area musicians in grades 3 through 9. Directors are Lynne Tobin, Jan Mattke, and Daniel Long. The **Michigan Children of SCORE** (Strings, Choral, Orff, Recorder Ensemble) perform Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa music. The **Junior String Orchestra** performs "Carol of the Bells," "Two Hebrew Melodies," Pachelbel's Canon in D, and Del Borgo's "Dance Scenario." The **Youth String Orchestra** performs an excerpt from Britten's "Simple Symphony," Evan Chambers's "The Tall-Eared Fox and the Wild-Eyed Man," and Heinrich Biber's

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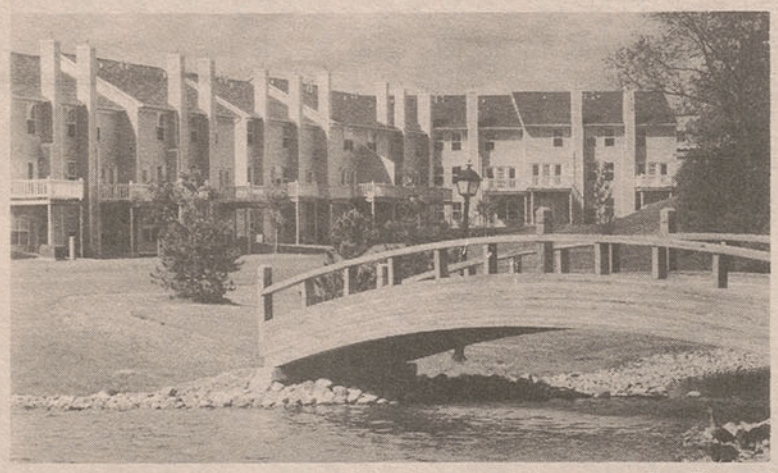

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EVENTS *continued*

"Battaglia." Also, the **Berkshire Flute Ensemble,** led by Penny Fischer, performs in the theater lobby prior to the concert. *2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Suggested donation: $5 (individuals) or $10 (families). 995–4625.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 15 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Skate with Santa": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Santa is on hand to skate with kids of all ages and hand out holiday treats. Parents are invited to bring their cameras. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Rink, 2751 Packard Rd. (next to Cobblestone Farm). $2.50 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $2). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 971–3228.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 24 boys in its 9th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city" and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Also, John Joubert's "All and Some" and his "Torches," the beautiful Welsh carol "Suo Gan" (for solo boy soprano), and David Willcock's arrangements of "Away in a manger" (with solo boy soprano), "Good King Wenceslaus" (with solo boy soprano and bass), and the "Sussex Carol." At the 7:30 p.m. performance only, the boy singers are supplemented by 14 men singers, who provide the lower choral parts. Also, the Boychoir's 13-member Preparatory Choir performs John Rutter's "The Star Carol" and the traditional "Welcome Yule!" and joins the regular Boychoir in some of the traditional carols. Organist and flute soloist to be announced. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so come early for a good seat. *3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $10 (students, $6) in advance and at the door. Family rates available. 663–5377.*

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Today: the **Ann Arbor Concert Band.** 3 p.m.

★**Weekly Run: Ann Arbor Hash House Harriers.** See 3 Sunday. 3 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Rainbow Writers' Salon.** This month's featured reader is WSU English professor **John Reed,** who reads from his new collection, *Great Lakes Poems,* a book that U-M English professor Laurence Goldstein praises for "language compelling enough to transport us into worlds both natural and preternatural." Followed by discussion and open mike readings. All invited. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 728–0529.*

"Sing-Along with Santa and Sam": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO director **Sam Wong** is the pianist and conductor at this hour-long family-oriented concert that includes a holiday carol sing-along with **Santa** and local radio personality **Lucy Ann Lance.** Cider and cookies served. *Note:* The AASO presents its annual "Holiday Festival of Song" tomorrow at the Michigan Theater (see listing). *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $5 (children 12 & under), $10 (adults), $25 (families of 6 or fewer), & $50 (patron families). For reservations, call 994–4801.*

Saturday Night Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. See 2 Saturday. 5–11 p.m.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **Musical Moments.** 6–10 p.m.

Holiday Hockey Tournament: Huron High School. See 13 Wednesday. Tonight: Dexter vs. Livonia Churchill (7 p.m.) & Pioneer vs. Huron (8:30 p.m.).

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** Also, December 23. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, cellular phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset. *7 p.m.–1 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 mile west of Hudson Mills Metropark). Free. 480–4514.*

★**"Marae Price and Friends": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** This local singer, dancer, guitarist, and composer is joined by other musicians to be announced for a concert of ancient Celtic and contemporary songs for the Yule season. *7:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free. $7 in advance, $8 at the door. 665–8428.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Country Dancers. Live music by the Contrepreneurs, with popular local callers John Freeman and Robin Warner. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. *8–11:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.(1/2 mile south of I-94). $6. 662–3371.*

Josh White Jr.: The Ark. Known for his powerful, intense singing and his virtuosity on 6-string and 12-string guitars, White sings in a more modern style than his famous folksinger father. His blues, gospel, and folk repertoire includes many of his father's best–known songs as well as several upbeat, inspirational originals. Tonight's **holiday concert** features many seasonal songs. *8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $11 (members, students, & seniors, $10) at the door only. 761–1451.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 15 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Les Liaisons Dangereuses": Medea Theater Troupe. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Government Inspector": Young Actors Guild. See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Margaret Smith: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Big Daddy Kinsey and the Kinsey Report: Prism Productions. Lean, gritty urban blues, soulful and funky, by this acclaimed band from Gary, Indiana, led by guitarist Dave Kinsey, a former member of the Wailers and Peter Tosh's band. The group also features David's father, vocalist Big Daddy Kinsey. The band's debut Alligator LP, "Midnight Drive," got lots of national airplay. *10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. $6 at the door only. 996–8555.*

FILMS

MTF. "A Month by the Lake" (John Irvin, 1995). In the 1930s, a spinster photographer travels to Lake Como hoping to find love. Vanessa Redgrave. Mich., 4:45 p.m. **"The Usual Suspects"** (Bryan Singer, 1995). Suspense tale about a group of five con men caught up in a "job" that quickly gets out of control. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Double Happiness"** (Mina Shum, 1995). Wry comedy about a young Chinese-Canadian woman torn between her traditional parents' expectations and her desire to be an actress. Mich., 9 p.m.

17 SUNDAY

Antiques and Collectibles Show and Sale: Maple Ridge Antiques. 75 dealers from across the country offer a wide variety of treasures. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Maple Ridge Antiques, 490 S. Maple at W. Stadium. $3 admission. 213–1577.*

★**"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club.** See 3 Sunday. 9 a.m.

★**"Weeds in Winter": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC's entertaining and informative Matt Heumann leads a trek to identify pods, seeds, stems, and shoots. *10 a.m., County Farm Park, on Washtenaw just west of US-23. Free. 971–6337.*

★**"From Aging to Sage-ing: A Profound New Vision of Growing Older": Jewish Community Center "Bagels & Books."** Lia Wiss, a student in the Doctorate of Ministry program at the Ecumenical Theology Seminary in Detroit, discusses this new book co-written by Rabbi Zalman Schaecter-Shalomi, a leader in the Jewish Renewal movement, and Ronald S. Miller. Wiss also did an internship at Schaecter-Shalomi's Spiritual Eldering Institute in Philadelphia. Bagels served. *10:30 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.**

See 3 Sunday. Today: First Singles member Paul Sheng discusses **"Christian Spirituality in China Now."** 10:30 a.m.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 3 Sunday. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

★**Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program.** See 3 Sunday. 12:30–3:30 p.m.

"Santa on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Santa in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. *1–3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $3.25). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 761–7240.*

★**"Tree of Remembrance" Dedication Service: Arbor Hospice.** Dedication of a "tree of remembrance" decorated with handmade lace ornaments bearing the names of deceased loved ones. The ecumenical service includes music by the Liberty Brass Quintet and brief talks by Arbor Hospice chaplain Diane Smith and hospice supporters. The tree remains on display at the Kerrytown Shops through the holidays, after which the ornaments are given to families of the deceased. *1 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. For more information, or to have a memorial ornament made, call 677–0500.*

"A German Family Christmas": Kempf House Center for Local History. See 2 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★**"Upstairs at Borders": Borders Books and Music.** See 3 Sunday. Today: klezmer music by **The Ethnic Connection.** 1 p.m.

★**"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 3 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★**"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** See 2 Saturday. 1 p.m.

★**"Bluegrass and Old-Time Country Music Jam Session": Ypsilanti Farmers' Market.** All acoustic musicians invited to bring their instruments to this monthly jam session. Proceeds to benefit the restoration of the Farmers' Market Freight House. *1:30–5 p.m., Farmers' Market Freight House, E. Cross at River St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. $2 donation. 930–2680.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.** Speaker to be announced, followed by small discussion groups. Dedicated to helping family members understand and accept gay loved ones, PFLAG meets the 3rd Sunday of every month. *2–5 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Free. 741–0659.*

★**Chaverim B'Shirim: Beth Israel Congregation.** This local chorus (the name means "friends of song") offers a concert of music by Jewish composers spanning nearly four centuries, from the 17th-century Solomon di Rossi to Leonard Bernstein. Also, a cantata by Ann Arborite Jaine Roman Pitt. The concert concludes with a family Hanukkah sing-along. *2 p.m., Beth Israel, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 663–5543.*

★**The Choral Connection: Barnes & Noble.** Holiday music by this 20-member local chorus. *2–4 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 15 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art.** See 3 Sunday. Today: **"Moby-Dick and American Art."** 2 p.m.

★**"Ancient Nubia: Egypt's Rival in Africa": U-M Kelsey Museum.** See 3 Sunday. 2:30 p.m.

14th Annual "Holiday Brass": Galliard Brass Ensemble. A popular annual tradition featuring this award-winning local brass quintet led by trumpeter Charles Larkins. The program opens with the group's signature performance of Samuel Scheidt's "Galliard Battaglia," a lively Baroque dance number in which the main theme is tossed back and forth by the trumpets as the musicians process down the aisle. The program also includes works by Bach, Copland, and Debussy, and Hanukkah and Christmas tunes. Special guests this year are **Gemini**, the nationally renowned local acoustic duo of twin brothers San and Laz Slomovits, whose witty original songs and marvelous ability on a smorgasbord of acoustic instruments make them a favorite with audiences of all ages. Galliard members are trumpeters Larkins and Christopher Hart, French horn player Willard Zirk, trombonist Michael Hall, and bass trombonist Daniel Harris. *3 p.m. (doors open at 2:15 p.m.), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $11 (adults), $8 (students & seniors), & $5 (children 12 & under), available in advance or at the door. For reservations, call 662–5146.*

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Tonight: the **Jefferson Singers.** 3 p.m.

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** See 3 Sunday. 3 p.m.

★**6th Annual "Messiah": First Presbyterian Church, Ypsilanti.** Ruthann Wagner directs the church adult choir and a chamber orchestra in the "Christmas" section of Handel's famous oratorio. Reception follows. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Freewill offering. 482–1525.*

★**"December Open House": Washtenaw County Alliance for the Mentally Ill.** All invited to socialize and discuss issues related to public education, support, and advocacy for persons and families affected by mental illness. *4–6 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 994–6611.*

★**Monthly Book Discussion: Stilyagi Air Corps.** All are welcome to join a discussion of a science-fiction novel to be announced. *5 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. For information, call Chad at (313) 390–2369.*

★**Ecumenical Service: U-M Campus Chapel.** This monthly service features singing of meditative music from the ecumenical community of Taize, France. The service also includes prayer, meditation, readings, silence, and Holy Communion. All invited. *6 p.m., U-M Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. (off Washtenaw one block south of Geddes). Free. 668–7421, 662–2402.*

"Holiday Festival of Song": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Sam Wong directs the AASO and the **Ann Arbor Cantata Singers** in this holiday family concert. Program includes William Boyce's Symphony No. 4, Vaughan Williams's "Fantasia on Greensleeves," Handel's "Zadok the Priest," and Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms." Boy soprano soloist is **Tristan Stani**, a member of the Boychoir of Ann Arbor. The evening concludes with an audience sing-along led by local arts patron **Judy Dow Rumelhart**, who also reads the perennial favorite, "The Night Before Christmas." *6–8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $15, $20, & $25 (discounts for seniors, students, & children). For reservations or information, call 994–4801.*

Singletons. See 3 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris and Sword Dancers.** See 3 Sunday. 6–8 p.m.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

★**Big Circle Meeting: Green Party of Huron Valley.** All invited to discuss a topic to be announced. The Greens are a political organization working to integrate the issues of ecologically sound living, grassroots democracy, justice, and nonviolent action. All invited. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Denny's Restaurant, 3310 Washtenaw. Free. 663–3555.*

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 3 Sunday. 7–9:30 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Les Liaisons Dangereuses": Medea Theater Troupe. See 14 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"The Government Inspector": Young Actors Guild. See 14 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**35th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** All invited to join this local Christmas tradition. Congregation members read nine lessons that tell the story of God's dealings with mankind, from the fall of Adam and Eve through Old Testament prophecy and the birth of Christ. Each lesson has an associated hymn or carol, some sung by the choir and some by the congregation. St. Andrew's adult and junior choirs are under the direction of Tom Strode. Music includes set-

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EVENTS *continued*

tings of traditional carols by Peter Warlock, David Willocks, G. R. Woodward, Simon Lindley, Derek Holman, and Boris Ord, as well as William Walton's "All This Time," Welsh composer William Mathias's "Sir Christmas" and "Alleluia, a new work," and Kenneth Leighton's "Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child." Congregational carols include "Once in royal David's city," "What star is this?," "O come, O come Emmanuel," "Lo, how he comes with clouds descending," and "O little town of Bethlehem." *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free, but an offering is taken to benefit the St. Andrew's breakfast program and the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor. 663–0518.*

FILMS

No films.

18 MONDAY

★Monthly Meeting: 13th Congressional District Senior Citizens Advisory Council. All seniors and senior advocates invited to discuss federal legislation and its impact on seniors with Congresswoman Lynn Rivers. *9–10 a.m., location to be announced. Free. 741–4210.*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. See 4 Monday. 10 a.m.

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. See 4 Monday. 10:30 a.m.-noon.

"Winter Star Talk": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Also, December 19–22 & 27–29. Audiovisual program about the stars currently visible in the sky. *1, 2, & 3 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors & children 12 & under, $2). 763–6085.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Burns Park Pipers.** 6–10 p.m.

★"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall. See 2 Saturday. Tonight: barbershop by **Harmony Fun.** 7 p.m.

Insight Meditation (Vipassana) Sitting Group: Deep Spring Center. See 4 Monday. 7–7:45 p.m.

★Evening Voyages: Ann Arbor Public Library. See 4 Monday. Tonight's topic: **"Moon, Sun, & Stars."** 7–7:45 p.m.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Cleveland State. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★Monthly Meeting: Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities and interests are invited to work on their own stitching projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 662–4981 (eves.).*

Weekly Meeting: U-M A-Squares. See 4 Monday. 7:30–10 p.m.

★Writers Series: Guild House. Poetry readings by **Laura Sevilla, Emily Wismer,** and **Ian Demsky.** *8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Legend of Fong Sai Yuck" (Cory Yuen, 1993). Also, December 19. Action hero Jet Li stars in this story of the Chinese folk hero who tried to overthrow the Ching Dynasty Manchurians. Mandarin, subtitles. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Swordsman II"** (Ching Siu-Tung, 1992). Also, December 19. Jet Li stars in this bloody action fantasy about a warrior on a quest for magical sacred scrolls. Mandarin, subtitles. Mich., 9:15 p.m.

19 TUESDAY

★"Celebrating Past, Present, and Future of the Community Partnership": Community Partnership. Election of new officers and recognition of past and current participants. All invited to join this task force dedicated to discouraging the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco among young people in Washtenaw County. *8:30–10 a.m., Washtenaw County Human Services Bldg., 555 Towner, Ypsilanti. Free. 484–6620.*

★"Awaken Your Light Body." See 5 Tues-

day. 10–11:30 a.m. & 7–8:30 p.m.

"Winter Star Talk": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 18 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

★**Monthly New Release Party: SKR Classical.** Food, prizes, and discounts on the latest classical CD releases. SKR staff members play brief excerpts and are on hand to discuss the recordings. *5–9 p.m., SKR Classical, 539 E. Liberty. Free. 995–5051.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Ann Arbor Highlanders.** 6–10 p.m.

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Tonight: the **Bryant Elementary School Choir.** 7 p.m.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Houston. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (high school students, $1; college students, free). 764–0247.*

★**Annual Members Slide Show: Sierra Club Monthly Meeting.** Sierra Club members show slides of their favorite trips. Preceded by a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. (bring your own utensils, beverage, and a dish to pass). *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 665–7345.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Camera Club.** See 5 Tuesday. Speaker and topic to be announced. Also, members show their recent prints. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Israel and Palestine: Two Years After Oslo, An Israeli Peace Activist's Perspective."** Jerusalem resident Maxine Kaugman Nunn gives a slide-illustrated talk about her first-hand observations of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. *7:30 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. Free. 769–0500.*

★**"Healing Body, Mind, Spirit": Ancient Formula.** See 5 Tuesday. Tonight: Anne Tillotson discusses **"Hypnosis for Past Life Info Gathering."** 7:30 p.m.

★**"The Foundation of All Perfection": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** See 5 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

"Acoustic Night": Griff's Jams. See 7 Thursday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: Eye of the Spiral. See 5 Tuesday. 8–10 p.m.

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. See 5 Tuesday. 8:30–11:30 p.m.

★**Speed Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** See 5 Tuesday. 9 p.m.

Drop-In Hockey Practice: Steel Magnolias. See 12 Tuesday. 9:15 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The Legend of Fong Sai Yuck" (Cory Yuen, 1993). Action hero Jet Li stars in this story of the Chinese folk hero who tried to overthrow the Ching Dynasty Manchurians. Mandarin, subtitles. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Swordsman II"** (Ching Siu-Tung, 1992). Jet Li stars in this bloody action fantasy about a warrior on a quest for magical sacred scrolls. Mandarin, subtitles. Mich., 9:15 p.m.

20 WEDNESDAY

★**"The Forbidden City": U-M Museum of Art.** Also, December 21. 43-minute video examines Beijing's Imperial City and its priceless art treasures. *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: organ recital by Michele Johns, music director at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth. 12:15–12:45 p.m.

"Winter Star Talk": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 18 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 6 Wednesday. 3:30–5:15 p.m.

"Meet Santa": Kid Kingdom. Jolly old Kris Kringle pays a visit to this local play park. *5–7:30 p.m., Kid Kingdom, 2107 W. Stadium. $4.95 (adults & infants under 1, free) includes unlimited play. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 769–1700.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **Dances of India.** 6–10 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Trout Unlimited.** Open to all who enjoy sport fishing and other outdoor activities. Tonight: entomologist Ian Martin discusses **"The Grand River (Ontario)."** *7 p.m., Gallup Park meeting room, 3000 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. 761–9200, 994–0555.*

★**"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall.** See 2 Saturday. Tonight: the **Carpenter Elementary School Choir.** 7 p.m.

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** See 6 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★**"Christmas Festival": Rudolf Steiner Institute.** The program includes a short talk by U-M physics professor emeritus Ernst Katz and a performance of Katherine Katz's short Nativity drama, "A Christmas Imagination." Refreshments, socializing. Children must be accompanied by an adult; not suitable for children under 6. *7:15 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. Reservations required by December 17. 662–9355.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Michigan Archaeological Society.** Speaker and topic to be announced. This is the local branch of a national organization that exists to help archaeology enthusiasts meet others with similar interests and learn about opportunities to work on upcoming excavations. *7:30 p.m., Modern Languages Bldg., room 124B. Free (annual dues, $25). 971–5077.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Creation Spirituality.** See 6 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** See 6 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club.** See 6 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Reiki Clinic.** Local Reiki masters Suzy Wienckowski and Nancy Steel and other area Reiki practitioners offer free 30-minute sessions in this gentle, hands-on technique for reducing stress, relieving pain, and facilitating healing and personal growth. *8–9 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 996–2530.*

★**"Transformations: Personal and Planetary Healing": LifeTouch Healing Community.** See 6 Wednesday. Tonight: Cindy Powers discusses **"The Path of the Traditional Shaman."** 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" (Maria Maggenti, 1995). Gentle romance about the relationship between two high school girls. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Mute Witness"** (Anthony Waller, 1995). Also, December 21. Suspense thriller about two American women involved with a low-budget filmmaking operation in Moscow. Mich., 9 p.m.

21 THURSDAY

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** See 6 Wednesday. 11 a.m.

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. See 7 Thursday. Today: the **First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir** performs music by Hugo Distler, Franz Dieble, Daniel Pinkham, Tomas Luis de Victoria, and Harold Duke. Noon–1 p.m.

"Winter Star Talk": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 18 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** See 7 Thursday. 2–7 p.m.

Chess Clubs: Adventures in Chess. See 7 Thursday. 3:30–7 p.m. (youths age 17 & under) & 7–11 p.m. (adults).

Monthly Meeting: New Enterprise Forum. A chance for entrepreneurs, investors, and business service providers to explore common interests. Each meeting features a guest speaker discussing an entrepreneurial issue, showcase presentations by emerging companies, and an open forum in which entrepreneurs can introduce themselves and solicit help for their business needs. Refreshments. All invited. *5 p.m. (registration), 5:30 p.m. (meeting), Holiday Inn North, 3600 Plymouth Rd. $15 (members, free). 665–4434.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Canisius. *6 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (high school students, $1; college students, free). 764–0247.*

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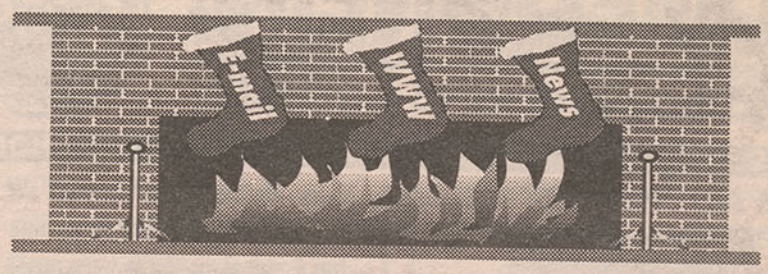

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EVENTS *continued*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: music by **Calvary Bible Church.** 6–10 p.m.

★Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children and adults) to learn about and try their hands at origami, the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Taught by local paper-folding expert Don Shall. *7–9:30 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington at Eighth St. Free. 662–3394.*

★Bi-Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Chapter of ECO-ACTION. All invited to join a discussion on how to influence national environmental policies. This month's topic to be announced. ECO-ACTION is a national citizens' environmental lobby. *7–9 p.m., 1046 Dana Bldg., 430 East University. Free. 665–1514, 677–4479.*

★"The Forbidden City": U-M Museum of Art. See 20 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★"Holiday Music": Briarwood Mall. See 2 Saturday. Tonight: the **Northside Elementary School Choir.** 7 p.m.

★General Meeting: Ann Arbor Democratic Party. Discussion topic to be announced. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 995–3518.*

★Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. See 7 Thursday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

"Oz's Jam": Oz's Music. See 7 Thursday. Tonight: a jazz jam hosted by the **Randy Napoleon Quintet.** 8 p.m.

★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Institute. See 6 Wednesday. 8–10 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Tim Cavanagh: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Also, December 22 & 23. A Chicago comic who blends whimsically naive observations with merrily absurd song parodies, Cavanagh has been described as "Beaver Cleaver with a guitar and a wickedly funny point of view." Several of his songs have been major hits on the syndicated Dr. Demento radio show, including "I Wanna Kiss Her But (She Won't Let Me)," "99 Dead Baboons," and "Let's Have a Drug-Free Christmas." Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $10 (members, $5) reserved seating in advance, $10 (members, free) general admission at the door. Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Unstrung Heroes" (Diane Keaton, 1995). Bittersweet tale of a young boy who goes to live with his eccentric uncles during a family crisis. Maury Chaykin, John Turturro. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Mute Witness"** (Anthony Waller, 1995). Suspense thriller about two American women involved with a low-budget filmmaking operation in Moscow. Mich., 9 p.m.

22 FRIDAY

"Winter Star Talk": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 18 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: the **Farmer John Barnyard Show.** 6–10 p.m.

"Winter Family Solstice and Hike": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Singing around a campfire with **San Slomovits,** one half of the popular acoustic duo Gemini. The program includes sing-alongs, hand-motion tunes, folktales, and music from around the world. Followed by a candle-lit hike. *7–8:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $4 (families, $12). Preregistration required. 662–7802.*

★Solstice Party: Magical Education Council of Ann Arbor. All invited to celebrate the season with pre-Christian and noncommercial traditions. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 761–1137.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. See 1 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Drum Circle." See 1 Friday. 8–10 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Tim Cavanagh: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

No films.

23 SATURDAY

★"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"Galaxies": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 2 Saturday. 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("Galaxies").

★"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company. See 2 Saturday. Today: storyteller **Greg Harris.** 11 a.m.

Comet the Reindeer: Dixboro General Store. See 2 Saturday. Noon–4 p.m.

Saturday Night Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. See 2 Saturday. 5–11 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: storyteller **Patti Meador.** 6–10 p.m.

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. See 16 Saturday. 7 p.m.–1 a.m.

English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Erna-Lynne Bogue and Don Theyken call traditional dances from England, with live music by pianist Debbie Jackson and fiddler Cherie Whalen. All dances taught; new dancers welcome. No partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and casual clothes. *8–11 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. $6. 663–0744.*

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Tim Cavanagh: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Sugar Blue: Rick's American Cafe. Widely regarded as the world's premier Chicago blues harpist, Sugar Blue has performed with everyone from the Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan to Willie Dixon, and he won a 1985 Grammy for "Another Man Done Gone," a cut on the "Blues Explosion" LP. He appears tonight with his excellent 5-piece band, and his repertoire includes some "moanin' and rockin' " originals and lots of traditional blues classics. *10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $5 at the door only. 996–2747.*

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Through December 31. Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 8 p.m. *Preshow entertainment at 7:30 p.m.*

24 SUNDAY

★"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club. See 3 Sunday. 9 a.m.

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. See 3 Sunday. Today: the group attends a **family Christmas pageant service** presented by young children of the church. 10:30 a.m.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 3 Sunday. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

★Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program. See 3 Sunday. 12:30–3:30 p.m.

★"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 3 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 2 Saturday. 1 p.m.

★Christmas Eve Concerts: Zion Lutheran Church. The church offers several special musical programs today featuring choirs, organ, harp, brass, and bells. Includes instrumental music and children's choirs (3 p.m.), and instrumental music and the adult choirs (5 p.m. & 11 p.m.). *3, 5, & 11 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Freewill offering. 994–4455.*

★"Lessons and Carols": First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's choirs. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. *5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris and Sword Dancers. See 3 Sunday. 6–8 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Through December 31. Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 5 p.m. *Preshow entertainment at 4:30 p.m.*

25 MONDAY (Christmas)

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Through December 31. Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

26 TUESDAY

★"Awaken Your Light Body." See 5 Tuesday. 10–11:30 a.m. & 7–8:30 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: a presentation by **Bird Rescue of Huron Valley.** 6–10 p.m.

★"The Foundation of All Perfection": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. See 5 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. See 5 Tuesday. 8:30–11:30 p.m.

★Speed Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. See 5 Tuesday. 9 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Through December 31. Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

27 WEDNESDAY

★"Looking for Renaissance Rome" and "Bernini's Rome": U-M Museum of Art. Also, December 28. Two half-hour videos, one about Renaissance structures and cultural traits in modern Rome, and the other exploring the influence of Baroque sculptor and architect Giovanni Bernini on the city's overall aesthetic. *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

"Winter Star Talk": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 18 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 6 Wednesday. Today's activity to be announced. 3:30–5:15 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: **Musical Moments.** 6–10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Folk Harp Society. All folk and Celtic harp enthusiasts invited to join an evening of conversation, listening to recordings, and solo and ensemble playing. Beginners welcome. *7 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. $2 donation. 475–2156.*

★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. See 6 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. See 6 Wednesday. 7:30–11 p.m.

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Also, December 28–31. This up-and-coming New York City comic blends acute observational humor with off-the-wall musical parodies of everyone from Frank Sinatra to Louis Armstrong. A favorite with Mainstreet audiences. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $12 (members, $6) reserved seating in advance, $12 (members, free) general admission at the door. New Year's Eve: $20 ($25 includes champagne & party favors). Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Through December 31. Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

28 THURSDAY

"Winter Star Talk": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 18 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

★"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. See 7 Thursday. 2–7 p.m.

Chess Clubs: Adventures in Chess. See 7 Thursday. 3:30–7 p.m. (youths age 17 & under) & 7–11 p.m. (adults).

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. Tonight: storyteller **Patti Meador.** 6–10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

★"Looking for Renaissance Rome" and "Bernini's Rome": U-M Museum of Art. See 27 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. See 7 Thursday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

★Monthly Meeting: Washtenaw County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. All invited to ask questions or address the local ACLU board on any civil liberties matter. *8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Free. 995–1600.*

★Monthly Meeting: Barnes & Noble Writers' Workshop. Discussion of participants' fiction led by EMU composition instructor Sam Robinson. Newcomers welcome. Free coffee. *8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Registration requested. 677–6475.*

"The Gathering": Griff's Jams. See 14 Thursday. 8–10:30 p.m.

"Oz's Jam": Oz's Music. See 7 Thursday. Tonight: an acoustic jam hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. 8 p.m.

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 27 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m.

Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums: Rick's American Cafe. Steve Lucky is better known in Ann Arbor as Steve Wethy, the frontman and pianist for the Blue Front Persuaders, one of the great local bands of the early 80s. Wethy transplanted to San Francisco several years ago, but he usually returns to town during the holidays, and his shows always draw big crowds. Tonight's show is a mini Persuaders reunion. Wethy and one member of his current band, guitarist Patsy Smith (aka Carmen Getit), are joined by three former Persuaders—drummer Marc Russell, bassist Todd Perkins, and alto and baritone saxophonist Carl Dyke—and local tenor saxophonist Mark Hynes. Wethy's current repertoire blends the jump blues and big-band R&B favored by the Persuaders with rhumbas, swing, and other 40s styles. *10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $4 at the door only. 996–2747.*

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Through December 31. Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

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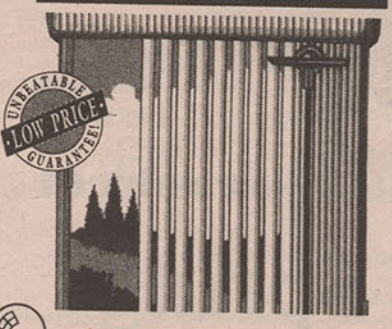

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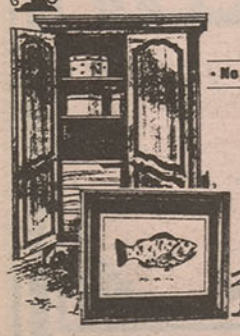

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EVENTS *continued*

29 FRIDAY

★"December Movies": Ann Arbor Public Library. Showing of the popular animated Disney feature, **"Aladdin."** Recommended for children age 6 & older. Space limited; first come, first seated. *10 a.m. & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

"Winter Star Talk": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 18 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. See 1 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Iowa. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (high school students, $1: college students, free). 764–0247.*

Women's Moon Ritual: Goddess Studies. All women invited to celebrate the waxing half-moon with Tarot readings, drumming, and singing by candlelight. Participants encouraged to wear black and white. Bring a snack to share. *7:30 p.m., 1402 Hill at Olivia. $5. For reservations, call 665–5550.*

"Drum Circle." See 1 Friday. 8–10 p.m.

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 27 Wednesday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

" 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Eve Dance": Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are welcome at this dance and social occasion. Recorded music played by a DJ from Dance Company. Cash bar. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Ann Arbor Elks Club, 325 W. Eisenhower. $6 (PWP members, $4). 973–1933.*

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Through December 31. Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

30 SATURDAY

Winter Antiques Market: Antiques Markets, Inc. See 9 Saturday. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

★"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"Galaxies": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 2 Saturday. 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("Galaxies").

★"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music. See 2 Saturday. Today's guest to be announced. 11 a.m.

★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. See 6 Wednesday. Today: Software Etc. representatives present interactive stories for kids. 1 p.m.

Saturday Night Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. See 2 Saturday. 5–11 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

Tom Paxton: The Ark. One of the first singer-songwriters to emerge from the 60s folk revival, Paxton is still as prolific and popular, as pertinent and impertinent, as ever. A very versatile songwriter, he has written hauntingly beautiful ballads like "Rambling Boy" and "The Last Thing on My Mind," rousing sing-alongs like "Wasn't That a Party," and scores of splendid social satires. He's also an excellent performer who's always been a favorite with local audiences. *8 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 (tonight) & $5 (tomorrow) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 27 Wednesday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Drop-In Hockey Practice: Steel Magnolias. See 12 Tuesday. 9:15 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Also, December 31. Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

31 SUNDAY

Winter Antiques Market: Antiques Markets, Inc. See 9 Saturday. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

★"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club. See 3 Sunday. 9 a.m.

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. See 3 Sunday. Today: showing of the film **"Norman."** 10:30 a.m.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 3 Sunday. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

★Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program. See 3 Sunday. 12:30–3:30 p.m.

★"Upstairs at Borders": Borders Books and Music. See 5 Sunday. Today: Irish music by **Mulligan Stew.** 1 p.m.

★"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 3 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 2 Saturday. 1 p.m.

★Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris and Sword Dancers. See 3 Sunday. 6–8 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

1995 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Friday. 6–10 p.m.

4th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. An alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration featuring more than 30 different local entertainment acts running throughout the evening in various locations in and around Ypsilanti's Riverside Park, where the **Festival of Lights** (see 1 Friday) concludes at midnight tonight. Entertainers include comedian and mime **O. J. Anderson**, storytellers **LaRon Williams** and **Barbara Schutz-Gruber,** blues and boogie-woogie pianist **Mark "Mr. B" Braun,** the children's theater company **Wild Swan Theater,** the local rock band **Lucky Haskins,** jazz flutist **Paul Vornhagen, The Raisin Pickers** folk band, rockabilly & blues guitarist **Steve Nardella,** folksinger **Joel Mabus, The Ambassadors** big-band jazz ensemble, choreographer **Peter Sparling** and his **Dance Theater,** the barbershop quartet **Three Men and a Tenor,** children's musicians **Gemini** and **Sheila Ritter,** and many others. Food concessions. *6:30 p.m.–midnight, various Ypsilanti locations. Admission badges $10 in advance, $15 at the door. Children ages 6–12, $5 (children 5 & under, free). Badges available in advance at Busch's Valu Land stores and the Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention Bureau. A limited number of free badges available to low-income families (call Kathleen Reynolds at 484–6620). For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483–4444.*

"New Year's Eve Family Sock Hop Party": Kid Kingdom. Dancing to 50s music and a New Year's Eve countdown and balloon drop (at 10 p.m.). Free noisemakers, punch, and popcorn. *7:30 p.m., Kid Kingdom, 2107 W. Stadium. $5 per person. Reservations required. 769–1700.*

Jimmie Dale Gilmore: The Ark. Gilmore is one of the best of a large crop of neo-traditionalist folk-country stars, mainly because the country traditions he adheres to conserve its most extravagantly primal yearnings. Where Garth Brooks always sounds as if he's singing to the entire assembled population of North America, Gilmore's singing conjures images of an audience at once vaster and emptier, like some honky-tonk monk serenading coyotes and the wind. As a songwriter, he possesses a wonderfully offhand flair for lyrical flights that are sometimes poetic, sometimes unsettling in their extremity, and sometimes both, and he sings with a pinched nasal intensity that can put your nerves pleasantly on edge. His Grammy-nominated 1993 LP "Spinning Around the Sun," features a cunningly restrained version of Hank

A Hot Time in the Old Town

Jim Dapogny and friends celebrate the New Year

Franz Jackson

New Year's Eve parties that are open to the public can be quite a drag. Fortunately, there is a local alternative to forced levity, turquoise tuxedos, and bad champagne. Since 1992 Jim Dapogny has been playing the Power Center with his Chicago Jazz Band and selected guests. What began as a celebration of twenty-five years of Hazen Schumacher's syndicated radio program has become a local tradition, and the fun continues this year.

This is definitely a swinging, gala affair, with the band decked out in white dinner jackets with red carnations and the audience in various shades of elegance. Some of them are on their way to private celebrations and others will proceed afterward to the Gandy Dancer for a midnight benefit dinner with the musicians, emcee Schumacher, and WUOM staff.

The guest of honor in 1992 was trumpet master Doc Cheatham, who is still going strong at ninety, playing all over the world to universal acclaim. One of this year's guests is Franz Jackson (b. 1912), another jazz musician who continues to get better and better in the second half of his life. Jackson began his musical career as a clarinetist and alto saxophonist, but in the late 1930's he switched to the tenor sax and played with some of the best swing-era bands. After a brief stint with Fletcher Henderson, he joined Roy Eldridge's big band, which was playing at the famed Astoria Ballroom in New York. Jackson was the "straw boss" of the band, and his solos can be heard on recordings made of those radio broadcasts as well as on a few studio dates. For the last forty years he has played in the Chicago area, often with his own traditional jazz band, mostly playing clarinet and singing.

As good as Jackson's clarinet playing is, the tenor sax is where his heart is. His big-toned, raspy, Hawkins-inspired playing is a joy, and I doubt if there is anyone alive today who can match him in this style. I have heard Jackson often in the last two years, and listening now to his solo on a recording of a 1938 Astoria Ballroom radio broadcast, I marvel to think that almost sixty years have gone by! If anything, he plays better and with more verve today.

Franz Jackson and singer Carol Leigh join Jim Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band at the Power Center this New Year's Eve.

—Piotr Michalowski

Williams's "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," along with oddly haunting originals like "Another Colorado." *7:30 & 9:30 p.m., The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

New Year's Eve Overnight: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids from kindergarteners through age 11 are invited to enjoy fun and games, a swim, a late-night snack and a movie, and breakfast tomorrow morning. *8 p.m. tonight–9 a.m. tomorrow, Ann Arbor YMCA, 350 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $45 (YMCA members, $35) per child. Reservations required. 663–0536.*

4th Annual New Year's Eve "Jazz Revisited" Concert: Michigan Radio. WUOM radio personality **Hazen Schumacher** and the nationally acclaimed **James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band** led by U-M piano professor Dapogny once again host a swinging evening of jazz and blues to welcome in the New Year. Guest performers are saxophonist and clarinetist **Franz Jackson** *(see review, above)*, one of the last living musicians from the heyday of Chicago jazz, and vocalist **Carol Leigh,** who specializes in the songs of Bessie Smith and other jazz and blues tunes from the 1920s and 1930s. After the performance, concert-goers can continue the festivities at a party at the Gandy Dancer ($5; space is limited and reservations required). *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets (before December 1) $19 & $23 by calling 764–3434. Beginning December 1, tickets are $23 & $27 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other TicketMaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS or (810) 645–6666.*

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 27 Wednesday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Chem-Free New Year's Eve Dance": Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Rainbow Oasis Center. All gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and friends welcome to socialize, dance to live music, and enjoy food and nonalcoholic beverages. *9 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. $15 at the door. 913–9516.*

Big Dave and the Ultrasonics: Rick's American Cafe. High-powered, brightly polished blues and blues-rock by this popular local band led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Steele. The band is working on the follow-up to its popular debut Schoolkids' CD. *9:30 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $8 (couples, $15) at the door only. 996–2747.*

Frank Allison & the Odd Sox: The Blind Pig. Scruffy, smart-mouthed utopian playground rock 'n' roll by this extremely popular local band led by singer-songwriter (and funny-face maker) Allison. With bassist Chris Noteboom, drummer Rob Hejna, and guitarist Kevin Allison (no relation to Frank). *10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $8 at the door only. 996–8555.*

FILMS

MTF. "Restoration" (Michael Hoffman, 1995). Rollicking tale of a lusty young man in the court of England's King Charles II. Robert Downey Jr., Sam Neill, Hugh Grant, Meg Ryan. Mich., 4:30 & 7 p.m.

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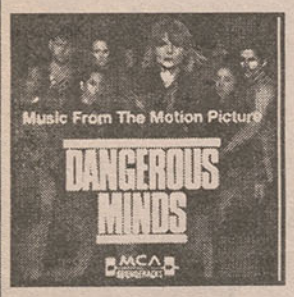

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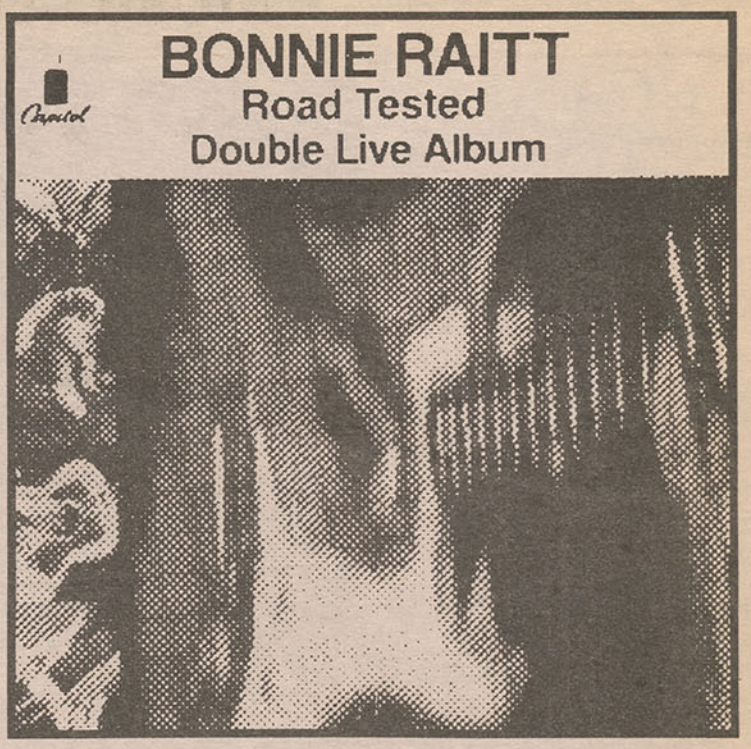

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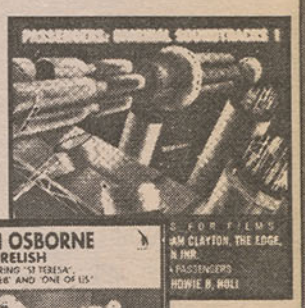

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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who will be playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Ark

637 1/2 S. Main 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover (usually $8.25–$9.25), no dancing. Discounts (usually $1) on cover for members ($15/year; families, $25/year). All shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Ticket sales: If a sellout is anticipated, advance tickets are sold and (usually) two shows are scheduled. Otherwise, tickets are available at the door only. **Dec. 1: John Hammond.** Folk blues veteran. See Events. **Dec. 2: Joel Mabus.** Versatile folkie. See Events. **Dec. 3: "Shape Note Singing."** All invited to sing sacred harp songs. See Events. 3–5 p.m. **Dec. 3: Carrie Newcomer.** Dynamic young singer-songwriter from northern Indiana whose songs are known for their blend of gritty realism and soft-spoken charm. **Dec. 5 & 6: Cris Williamson & Tret Fure.** Popular women's music duo. See Events. **Dec. 7: Liz Story.** New Age pianist. See Events. **Dec. 8: Jorma Kaukonen.** Blues & blues-rock guitar virtuoso. See Events. **Dec. 9: Matt Watroba.** WDET DJ Watroba sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads in a sweet tenor voice, accompanying himself on guitar and punctuating his performance with sharply humorous observations. **Dec. 10: Cooper and Nelson.** Traditional Celtic, English, and American music, both serious and comic, performed on a variety of instruments by the duo of Phil Cooper and Margaret Nelson. **Dec. 12: Tarika.** Malagasy roots music quartet. See Events. **Dec. 13: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. The first 12 acts to sign up beginning at 7:30 p.m. get to perform. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). **Dec. 14: Names Project/AIDS Quilt Foundation Concert.** With **The Still,** the **Lapdogs,** and **The Bucket.** See Events. **Dec. 15: RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have released three LPs, appeared in numerous festivals, and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-song dialogue. Schoolkids' recently released "Live and Unrehearsed," a CD collection of the band's 1994 Ark performances. **Dec. 16: Josh White Jr.** Veteran folkie. See Events. **Dec. 17: "Shape Note Singing."** See above. 3–5 p.m. **Dec. 30: Tom Paxton.** Veteran folkie singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 31: Jimmie Dale Gilmore.** Country singer-songwriter. See Events. 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

Ashley's

338 S. State 996–9191

This downtown restaurant features live music in its underground pub on Tuesdays and occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–1 a.m. No cover, no dancing. December schedule to be announced.

Bird of Paradise

207 S. Ashley 662–8310

Intimate jazz club co-owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music seven nights a week, 9 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover (except Sundays), no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.** (5:30–7:30 p.m.)**: Evan Katz.** This Community High student performs solo jazz piano, with occasional drop-in guests. **Every Sun.** (except December 24 & 31)**: Paul Finkbeiner & Friends.** Popular, high-energy jam session led by trumpeter Finkbeiner. **Every Mon.: Bird of Paradise Orchestra.** 14-piece ensemble organized by bassists Ron Brooks and Paul Keller to showcase original compositions and arrangements by musicians from southeastern Michigan. The varying lineup includes local and area jazz musicians. **Every Tues.: The Keller-Kocher Quartet.** Mainstream jazz by this top-notch local quartet featuring bassist Paul Keller, vibes player Cary Kocher, pianist Phil Kelly, and drummer Pete Siers. **Every Wed.: Tim Brockett Quartet.** A mix of jazz, blues, and R&B by this ensemble led by Hammond B-3 organist Brockett. With saxophonist Keith Kaminski, guitarist Oliver Nevels, and drummer Greg Williams. **Every Thurs.: Ron Brooks Trio.** One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club co-owner Brooks is joined by the highly regarded Detroit pianist Eddie Russ and new drummer Gerald Cleaver. This trio always makes good music, but when an appreciative audience coaxes them along, they're capable of bringing the house down. **Dec. 1 & 2: Ron Brooks Trio.** See above. **Dec. 8 & 9: Harvey Thompson & Friends.** Everything from swing and bebop to blues and boogie-woogie by this ensemble led by Thompson, a Detroit jazz vocalist whose sweet, serene, soulful ballad singing has provoked comparisons to Johnny Hartman. His new CD, "Jazz Is Anything You Want It To Be," has gotten rave reviews in *Cadence* and other national publications. **Dec. 15 & 16: The Keller-Kocher Quartet.** See above. **Dec. 22 & 23:** To be announced. **Dec. 29–31: Ron Brooks Trio.** See above. With a guest vocalist on New Year's Eve, to be announced.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996–8555

This local music club features live music six nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and a blues jam on Sundays, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Closed Mondays. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Jim Tate Band.** Versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-guitarist Tate, a longtime local favorite. The band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. The lineup of local veterans includes bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, & guitarists Al Hill and Danny McIntire. **Every Tues.: Open Mike Night.** All bands and solo performers invited. **Dec. 1: Verve Pipe.** Popular dance-rock band from Grand Rapids. **Dec. 2: Botfly.** Very popular neo-hippie band from East Lansing. Opening act is **Baked Potato,** a local alternative rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 3: Ann Arbor Bluestage.** All blues musicians invited to join a jam session that usually features performances by several local blues luminaries and forays into country, funk, soul, and rootsy rock 'n' roll. Hosted by the **Terraplanes,** a local blues-rock band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack, with guitarists Pete Bullard and Johnny Rasmussen, harmonica player Dick Spartacus, bassist Jim Rasmussen, and drummer George White. **Dec. 6: Simon Bonney.** The former leader of the 80s postpunk band Crime and the City Solution, this Australian singer-singwriter is backed by members of the **Volebeats,** a high-energy, guitar-based local rock 'n' roll band whose music blends elements of country, rockabilly, mountain, and folk music. The Volebeats also open the show. **Dec. 7: Ekoostik Hookah.** Acoustic, country-flavored neo-hippie dance band from Columbus, Ohio. **Dec. 8: Wig.** Self-styled "externalized auditory hallucinations" by this local big-beat, metal-edged rock 'n' roll quartet that recently released "Deliverance," its major label debut on Island records. With vocalist Clark Nova, guitarist Rob Shurgin, bassist Fran Falls, and drummer John Burke. Opening acts are **Gondolier,** a new local trio that plays well-crafted, literate rock 'n' roll, alternately moody and cathartic, and **Perplexa,** a local trio that plays dark, reverb-soaked rock 'n' roll instrumentals. **Dec. 9: Ass Ponys.** Ringing, searing guitar-based rock 'n' roll by this Cincinnati quartet that recently released its A&M debut, "Electric Rock Music." Opening act is the **The Holy Cows,** a Chelsea band that plays stirring, inventively melodic guitar-based garage-rock. "Get Along," the band's recently released Big Pop CD, has been getting airplay on Detroit rock radio, as well as critical acclaim around the country. **Dec. 13: Larynx Zillion's Novelty Shop.** Artfully discordant guitar-based rock 'n' roll with odd time changes and a twisted sense of humor by this local band led by Larynx Zillion, better known as Larry Miller of Non-Fiction fame. Opening act is the **Rainmakers,** a new local band that plays melodic college-oriented pop. **Dec. 14: Brothers Grimm.** See Rick's. Opening act is **The Guffs,** a college-pop band that recently released its debut CD on Atlantic. **Dec. 15: The Bucket.** See Rick's. Opening act is **Knee Deep Shag,** a blues-based rock 'n' roll band from Kalamazoo. **Dec. 16: Big Daddy Kinsey and the Kinsey Report.** Urban blues band from Gary, Indiana. See Events. **Dec. 17: Ann Arbor Bluestage.** See above. **Dec. 20: Slide off Saturn.** Popular local quintet that plays upbeat, percussive postpunk rock 'n' roll originals. **Dec. 21: Drivin' Sideways.** Reunion of this veteran local band that throughout the late 80s played Friday happy hours at the Blind Pig. Fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery renditions of country, honky-tonk, rockabilly, and vintage rock 'n' roll classics and originals, the band also includes pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle, guitarist-vocalist Bob Schetter, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Jakson Spires. **Dec. 22: Blind Pig Christmas Party.** With the **Jim Tate Band** (see above). **Dec. 23: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Super-fine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band recently completed recording the follow-up to its award-winning debut Schoolkids' CD, "Upside." **Dec. 27: South Normal,** a popular local rock 'n' roll quartet known for its tight arrangements, imaginatively varied rhythms, garage-band versatility, and slacker attitude. Opening act is **Plain,** a grungy postpunk pop band from Detroit. **Dec. 28: The Plumbobs.** Local pop-punk band led by singer-songwriter Johnny Rigg. The band recently released its debut CD. Opening act is **Backhanded,** a dark, jazzy rock band led by former Slot singer-guitarist Jim MacMillan. **Dec. 29 & Dec. 30:** To be announced. **Dec. 31: Frank Allison & the Odd Sox.** Extremely popular, local rock 'n' roll band.

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bands

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Mondo Mod

Teen party masterpieces

What strange spell has fallen over Tree Town? In the last few years, the local music scene has spawned a veritable deluge of 1960's-inspired surf and garage bands—young kids who use Farfisa organs, reverb tanks, and old tube amps to recreate sounds lovingly culled from B movies and scratchy 45's.

The latest practitioner of this particular brand of musical mayhem is an Ann Arbor combo that calls itself Mondo Mod. Wired up with vintage gear and suited up in vintage threads, the Mondo Mods put on a show that resembles a party sequence from one of Herschell Gordon Lewis's drive-in classics. Pounding out the beats of obscure covers by the likes of Eddie and the Showmen and the Marketts, along with some very vintage sounding originals, drummer Karen Sandvoss peers out from under her blonde bubble wig as the band's three male members hammer out the chords to teen party masterpieces. Sporting a turtleneck, a medallion, and a fur vest, bouncing on his heels as he hovers over his Farfisa organ, keyboardist Jerry Berlongieri looks as if he just stepped out of a "Monkees" episode. Guitarists Eric Stolsteimer and Jim Auge (who also doubles on bass) deliver surf and psychedelia with ruthless charm. The overall effect is that of the old Boblo Island roller coaster: it rattles and shakes as if it's gonna come apart at the seams, but you ride on with a defiant glee, knowing that if it jumps the track, you're all going together.

A Mondo Mod set is comprised equally of instrumental and vocal numbers, and Auge's earnest lead vocals lend authenticity to the sound; their performances contain the same infectious enthusiasm and rough-edged charm that can be heard on those scratchy 45's. On most nights, the band's set also includes a "Twist contest" that gets the whole place writhing like a snake pit.

It may seem odd to walk into a club in 1995 and see an entire audience of young people doing the twist, but with Mondo Mod afoot, it comes naturally! You can try it yourself when Mondo Mod appears at Rick's on Wednesday, December 13.

—Wendy Case

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Dec. 1: whirlingRoad. U-M student rock 'n' roll quintet led by drummer Drew Peters blends solid rocking rhythms with massed folk-inflected guitars and pop-oriented vocals. **Dec. 2: Jane Doe.** Pop-folk originals by this local all-female acoustic trio. Members are guitarists Audrey Becker and Lisa Hunter and percussionist Sonya Baker. **Dec. 8: Restroom Poets.** This popular local quartet plays lyrical, melodic, neo-psychedelic rock 'n' roll originals whose straining apocalyptic grandeur suggests a more earthbound U2. The band's debut CD got a favorable notice in *Billboard*. **Dec. 9: Frank Allison.** Acoustic performance by this talented and popular local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, accompanied by Kevin Allison (no relation), the guitarist in Frank's band, the Odd Sox. No music after December 9 until January.

City Limits

2900 Jackson Rd. 665–4444

Lounge at the Clarion Hotel. Live music six nights a week, 8:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with a DJ on Thursdays. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Mon.–Wed.: Steve Somers & Friends.** Blues jam sessions hosted by an ensemble led by guitarist Somers. On Mondays and Wednesdays, all local musicians are invited to sit in, and on Tuesdays Somers is joined by his regular vocalist, Valerie Barrymore. **Every Thurs.: Latin Night.** DJ spins dance records. **Dec. 1 & 2:** Top-40 dance band to be announced. **Dec. 3: The Soulcasters.** Blues band led by guitarist Pete Volard of Little Red's Big Blues Band. **Dec. 8 & 9: Steve Somers Band.** Top-notch soul-flavored R&B, blues, and 70s funk sextet led by Somers, a versatile guitarist with a pungent, staccato style, and vocalist **Valerie Barrymore.** With drummer Jesse Godfrey, bassist John Ford, trumpeter and keyboardist Dave Meyers, saxophonist Joe LeBeau, and second guitarist Dave Budzinski. **Dec. 10: The Pulsations.** See TC's. **Dec. 14 & 15:** Top-40 dance band to be announced. **Dec. 17: Scott Morgan's Key to the Highway.** An evening of 60s Detroit rock 'n' roll by this band led by Scots Pirates singer-songwriter Morgan, a fixture on the local rock scene since his days with the legendary Rationals in the 60s. Morgan is also one of the best blues singers in town, with a sharp-edged, cannily rhythmic vocal attack that's both mean and soulful. **Dec. 22, 23, & 29–31: Steve Somers Band.** See above.

Cross Street Station

511 W. Cross St. Ypsilanti 485–5050

Reggae bands (usually) on Thursdays, rock 'n' roll dance bands on weekends, DJs on Sundays and Tuesdays, and open mike on Wednesdays. Dancing, cover. **Every Sun.** (except December 24 & 31): **Modern Rock Dance Party.** With DJ Rich Retro. Ages 18 & older admitted. No cover. **Every Tues.: Retro Dance Party.** DJ Speed E. Smith plays 70s & 80s dance music. **Every Wed.: Open Mike Night.** Hosted by Tom Loncaric. All musicians invited. No cover. **Dec. 1: Morsel.** Popular local band whose self-styled "postmodern cyber-folk," a blend of industrial dissonance and neo-psychedelic bliss, employs a wide range of instrumental and vocal textures. The band released a CD, "Noise Floor." **Dec. 2: Brothers from Another Planet.** Hard-rocking metal-funk band from Detroit. **Dec. 7: Sister Seed.** Detroit folk-rock band that features two female vocalists. **Dec. 8: Big Dave and the Ultrasonics.** See Rick's. **Dec. 9: The Bucket.** See Rick's. **Dec. 14: South Normal.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 15: Speedball.** Detroit band that plays tight, well-crafted postpunk speed-metal. **Dec. 16: Mustard Plug.** High-energy, theatrical ska band from Grand Rapids. **Dec. 21: Brothers Grimm.** See Rick's. **Dec. 22: Red I.** Alternative rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 23 & 28:** To be announced. **Dec. 29: Social Fabric.** Hard-edged area rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 30 & 31:** To be announced.

Crow Bar

309 S. Main 668–0111

This new downtown club features live dance bands on weekends. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 1: Lady Sunshine and the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by singer Lady Sunshine, a fiery vocalist whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. Their repertoire includes a terrific cover of "Knockin' on Heaven's Door." **Dec. 2: Root Doctor.** Lansing blues & R&B band led by former Flying Tigers guitarist Scott Allman, host of the Sun-

day night blues show on WXJQ-FM. **Dec. 8: Nikki James and the Flame Doctors.** Red-hot rocking blues by this Detroit band led by the raw, raspy vocals of blues shouter James. **Dec. 9: The Prodigals.** See Tap Room. **Dec. 15: Mimi Harris & the Snakes.** Detroit R&B and blues band led by Harris, a compelling singer with a strong, sweet voice. **Dec. 16: James Wailin' Band.** Funk-inflected blues-rock by this very popular Detroit band led by vocalist and harmonica player Wailin', a fiery performer whose stage persona has been described as a "crazed cross between a televangelist and a used car salesman" and whose voice has been compared by one critic to "crushed red velvet—rich and warm in tone, simultaneously smooth and snappy and undulating pleasantly on sustained notes." **Dec. 22 & 23:** Closed. **Dec. 29: Scots Pirates.** Straight-ahead rock 'n' roll band led by singer-songwriter Scott Morgan, a fixture of the local rock scene since his days with the legendary Rationals in the 60s. With bassist Gary Rasmussen, guitarist Steve Dansby, and drummer Johnny Arizona. The band has an acclaimed new Schoolkids' CD, "Revolutionary Means," that is scheduled to be reviewed in the year-end edition of *Rolling Stone* due out in mid-December. **Dec. 30: Wild Sheep Riders.** This popular quartet of local country music veterans plays everything from Hank Williams and George Jones classics to "Sweetheart of the Rodeo"–era Byrds to Roy Orbison's "Sweet Dreams" done Everly Brothers–style, along with several originals. Led by singer-guitarists Kevin Brown and Steve Newhouse, the lineup also includes Jim Tate Band bassist Chris Goerke and drummer Eric Nyhuis. **Dec. 31: John D. Lamb.** Vintage R&B, blues, and blues-rock by this local band led by guitarist Lamb.

Del Rio

122 W. Washington 761–2530

No cover, no dancing. Local jazz groups every Sunday, 5–9 p.m. **Dec. 3: Paul Vornhagen, Rick Burgess, & Friends.** Upbeat Latin jazz and swing-bop quintet featuring Vornhagen's sax, flute, and vocals, Rick Burgess on piano, Bruce Dondero on bass, Pete Siers on drums, and Toledo's Jimmy Cook on trumpet. **Dec. 10:** Jazz ensemble to be announced. **Dec. 17: Paul Vornhagen, Rick Burgess, & Friends.** See above. **Dec. 31:** Jazz ensemble to be announced.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994–0211

Restaurant with live jazz Monday through Saturday. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon. & Thurs.** (8–10 p.m.)**: Rick Burgess.** Solo piano. **Every Tues. & Wed.:** (8–10 p.m.)**: Rick Roe.** Solo piano. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Chuck Hall, and drummer Robert Warren.

Espresso Royale Caffe

214 S. Main 668–1838

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features acoustic jazz, classical, and folk performers, most Fridays and Saturdays (9–11 p.m.). No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Jerry Perrine.** Jazz, blues, and ragtime piano. **Dec. 2: Doug Thomas.** Acoustic singer-guitarist. **Dec. 8: Gerald Ross.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Jon Ballou Trio.** Straight-ahead jazz, hot and tasty, by this trio led by bassist Ballou, a Community High grad. **Dec. 9: Debbie Fogell & Gary Allen.** Jazz standards by this singer and guitarist duo. **Dec. 15: Coup de Grass.** Traditional bluegrass quartet. **Dec. 16: Gernot Blume.** North Indian classical sitar music. **Dec. 22: The Firebird Balalaika Ensemble.** Traditional Russian and East European music on authentic instruments. **Dec. 23: Verdad.** Latin jazz trio. **Dec. 29: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Dec. 30:** To be announced.

Gandy Dancer

401 Depot 769–0592

Restaurant with live piano every night. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.** (3:30–9 p.m.)**: John Touchton.** Solo jazz pianist. **Every Mon.–Wed.** (6–11 p.m.)**: Tim Howley.** This local pianist plays a variety of popular music and takes requests. **Every Thurs.** (6–9 p.m.), **Fri.** (5:30–9 p.m.), **& Sat.** (6 p.m.–midnight)**: Carl Alexius.** Veteran local jazz pianist who takes requests for oldies. Also, jazz vocalist **Natalie Swann** performs with Alexius on Thursdays (9–11 p.m.) and Fridays (9 p.m.–midnight).

The Green Room

206 W. Michigan Ypsilanti 482–8830

Alternative performing arts space in downtown Ypsilanti, with open mikes on Tuesdays, DJs on Wednesdays, jam sessions on Thursdays, and live music Fridays, Saturdays, & occasional other nights, 9 p.m.–midnight or 1 a.m. All ages admitted; no alcohol served. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), no dancing. **Every Wed.: Ambient Music.** DJ Tropical plays ambient techno music. 10 p.m.–midnight. **Every Thurs.: Jazz Jam Session.** All musicians invited, but this jam session is aimed especially at young jazz musicians. **Dec. 2: Serenati.** This local quartet celebrates the release of its debut CD. Opening acts are **Be Bim Bop,** an Ypsilanti band that plays warped Firehose-style jazz-pop, and **Ken Cormier,** a local performance poet and singer-songwriter who accompanies himself with guitar, an assortment of percussion instruments, and a tape machine. **Dec. 5: Poetry Open Mike.** All poets invited. **Dec. 12: Open Stage.** All musicians invited. Followed by a set by Plumbobs guitarist Scottie Karate. **Dec. 15: Film Night.** A program of cartoons and a feature film to be announced. **Dec. 16: Branch Manager.** Punk-rock band from Virginia that records for the Dischord label. **Dec. 19: Poetry Open Mike.** See above. Remainder of December schedule to be announced.

The Habitat

3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano during happy hour by a pianist to be announced (Tues.–Sat. 5–9 p.m.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Tues.–Sat.: Northern Lights.** Top 40 dance band.

The Heidelberg

215 N. Main 663–7758

This rock 'n' roll club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live dance bands on Thursdays (8–11 p.m.), Fridays & Saturdays (10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), and Sundays (8–10:30 p.m.). Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.** (except December 24 & 31)**: II-V-I Orchestra.** Late-30s swing and 40s R&B. See Events. 7–9:30 p.m. **Dec. 1: Frank Allison & the Odd Sox.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 2:** To be announced. **Dec. 5: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam.** With **Jeffrey McDaniel.** See Events. 8 p.m. **Dec. 8 & 9:** Private parties. **Dec. 15: Deep Space Six.** Grateful Dead cover band from Howell. **Dec. 16: The Prodigals.** See Tap Room. Opening act is **Mr. Largebeat,** a big-beat space-rock band led by veteran local singer-songwriter Jim Gertz, who plays a theremin (the original synthesizer) and percussion. Other members are keyboardist and flutist Catherine Titta, bassist Glenn Bertrend, guitarist Kip Godwin, and drummer Matt Brzekinski. The band has released several recordings, including the recent 45 single, "Hologram Man"/"Lady LaMoona." **Dec. 22:** To be announced. **Dec. 23: Drivin' Sideways.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 29 & 30:** To be announced. **Dec. 31: Sean Carroll's New Year's Eve Celebration.** Heidelberg bartender Carroll hosts a party with live music to be announced.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764–7544

Performance area in the food court at the U-M North Campus Commons. Live music five nights a week, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. **Dec. 1: Mulligan Stew.** Local acoustic ensemble that plays everything from bluegrass-influenced fiddle tunes and Celtic airs to contemporary folk, Irish, and country ballads. **Dec. 7: U-M Jazz Studies Program.** Live jazz standards and originals by U-M music students, directed by U-M jazz studies director Ed Sarath. Weekly featured soloists to be announced.

Mel's

3750 Washtenaw Ave. 971–2000

New lounge at the Ramada Inn Ann Arbor. DJs on Saturdays. Also, karaoke on Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. **Every Sat.: Salsa Night.** DJ plays a variety of Caribbean dance music.

The Nectarine

510 E. Liberty 994–5436

This popular local New York–style dance club features DJs six nights a week, 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: Boys' Night Out.** With DJ Roger LeLievre. **Every Sat.: 70s & 80s Dance Party.** With DJ Roger LeLievre. **Every Mon.: Frequency.** Detroit techno and underground dance music with DJ Tim Parker. **Every Tues.: Boys' Night Out.** See above. **Every**

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For the complete month's entertainment, see listings in this issue.

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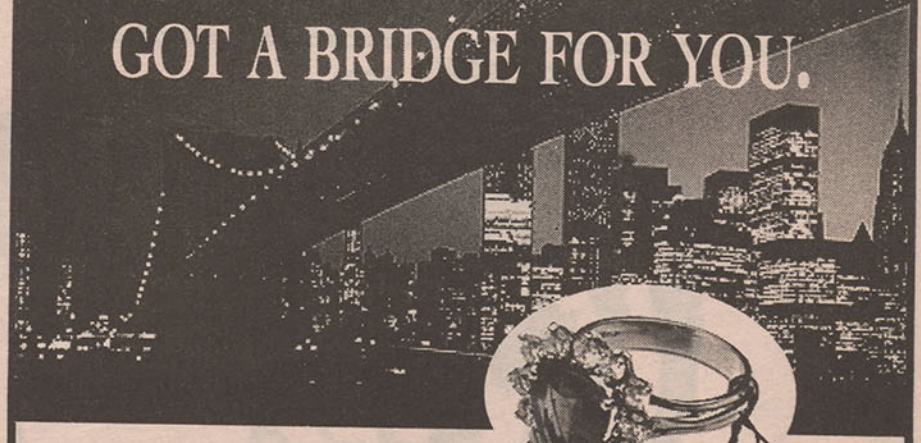

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O'Sullivan's Eatery and Pub

1122 South University 665–9009

Solo guitarists on Fridays, 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: Jerry Sprague.** Solo rock 'n' roll classics on acoustic guitar by the leader of the Remainders.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church 996–2747

Live music six nights a week and occasional Sundays, 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Chief local venue for big-name electric blues. Campus-area location gives this club a strong collegiate flavor, but the music also draws a heavy nonstudent clientele. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Dec. 1: Brother Rabbit.** U-M student pop-rock band. **Dec. 2: WCBN Benefit Bash.** With **Slot,** the **Lapdogs,** and **Windy and Carl.** See Events. **Dec. 3: Christmas Party.** A DJ spins dance records. All proceeds donated to Mott Children's Hospital. **Dec. 4: Bob Margolin.** Chicago blues veteran. See Events. **Dec. 5: The Still.** Local acoustic rock 'n' roll quartet. **Dec. 6: Everything.** Funk-rock dance band from Washington, D.C. **Dec. 7: The Bucket.** Horn-driven party music, in the tradition of early James Brown and Funkadelic, by this local funk-rock band that varies in membership from 10 to 12 players. **Dec. 8: First Light.** Extremely popular Cleveland-based, neo-funk reggae band. **Dec. 9: Lonnie Brooks.** Heralded blues veteran. See Events. **Dec. 10: Steve Nardella Benefit.** An all-star line-up of local blues & roots-rock musicians raises money to help pay Nardella's medical bills. See Events. 6 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 11: Nick Strange and the Bare Nakeds.** Local blues & reggae dance band. **Dec. 12: Borax.** Uncompromisingly silly local quintet that blends lurching rhythms, warped hardcore tunes, occasional lapses into tastefully executed lounge-trash, and lost-love/horror-movie lyrics. **Dec. 13: Mondo Mod.** *See review, p. 151.* This popular local quartet plays 60s surf and garage music, along with originals in the same vein. **Dec. 14: Vudu Hippies.** Garage-rock band from suburban Detroit. Opening act is **Guss,** a Minneapolis band featured on the new "Aware 3" compilation CD. **Dec. 15: the jes gru.** Local all-originals alternative rock 'n' roll band. Opening act is the **Restroom Poets** (see Cava Java). **Dec. 16:** To be announced. **Dec. 18: Dance Party.** With DJ John King. **Dec. 19: The Plumbobs.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 20: Fully Loaded.** Local Chicago-style blues and blues-rock band led by guitarist Jay Doria that features a repertoire of originals and covers by the likes of Elmore James, Eric Clapton, the Allman Brothers, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. **Dec. 21: TopKat.** Percussion-led dance-groove quartet led by singer-guitarist Jeff Gordon and two former members of the Difference, drummer Tom Campbell and keyboardist Dean Angermeier. **Dec. 22: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band.** Sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble led by Hugh Borde, who has been with the band since its inception 50 years ago. The band released a Schoolkids' CD, "hotlikefire." **Dec. 23: Sugar Blue.** Veteran blues harpist. See Events. **Dec. 25:** Closed. **Dec. 26: Reggae Ambassada.** Local reggae band. **Dec. 27: Brothers Grimm.** Very popular grunge-rock band from Chelsea. **Dec. 28: Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums.** Former Blue Front Persuaders singer-pianist Lucky (aka Steve Wethy) performs with members of his current band and three former Persuaders. See Events. **Dec. 29: Solid Frog.** Highly regarded alternative rock 'n' roll band from Saline formerly known as Slam Circus. **Dec. 30: Dorothy.** Contemporary dance-rock covers by this East Lansing band, formerly known as Surrender Dorothy, that features two female vocalists. **Dec. 31: Big Dave and the Ultrasonics.** Local blues & blues-rock favorites. See Events.

Shooters

11485 North Territorial Dexter 426–1600

This sports bar adjacent to the Terrace Place restaurant features live dance bands, Friday & Saturday, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Very large dance floor. Dancing, no cover. December schedule to be announced.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan Ypsilanti 482–5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music six nights a week, usually 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sundays. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged.** Hosted by **Chris Buhalis,** a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. **Every Tues.: Open Mike.** Hosted by **C. C. and the Bad Luck Boys,** a rock 'n' roll band led by Chris Casello of the Prodigals. All bands and musicians invited. **Dec. 1: The Alligators.** R&B and blues band from Detroit. **Dec. 2: Butler Twins.** Top-notch urban blues band from Detroit. **Dec. 6: Al Hill Band.** Blues trio led by Love Butlers leader Hill (see below). **Dec. 7:** To be announced. **Dec. 8: Kenny Miller Blues Band.** Detroit blues band. **Dec. 9: Eureka Blue Moons.** Blues band. **Dec. 13: The Slackers.** Traditional and original blues by this area band. **Dec. 14: Chris Buhalis.** See above. **Dec. 15: Crowbar Hotel.** Soulful, groove-oriented original rock 'n' roll by this local quintet. **Dec. 16: The Skyles Band.** This local rock 'n' roll band specializes in vintage Southern rock, along with classic rock, blues-rock, and blues. **Dec. 20: Al Hill Band.** See above. **Dec. 21: Jo Serrapere.** Female folksinger. **Dec. 22: Jonnie Bassett and the Blues Insurgents.** Detroit blues band. **Dec. 23: Beale Street.** Blues band. **Dec. 27: The Slackers.** See above. **Dec. 28: Steve Hummer and Diane Glen.** Acoustic rock 'n' roll duo from Toledo. **Dec. 29: Blue Rays.** Local blues band led by guitarist Dave Kaftan. **Dec. 30: Al Hill and the Love Butlers.** Soulful swing, New Orleans–style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano and featuring the Disorderly Horns. **Dec. 31: The Prodigals.** This popular local blues-based quartet features the 60s-style vocal harmonies and neo-surf instrumental work of guitarists Chris Casello and Al Davron, who is also the lead singer. With bassist Kim French and drummer Dario Insinga. The band's new 8-song cassette features originals like "Sharkskin Buffalo" and "All My Friends Are in Jail," along with covers by everyone from the Ventures and the Byrds to Albert King and Chris Isaak.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features country line dance instruction on Sundays (8 p.m.), karaoke on Mondays (9 p.m.–1 a.m.), acoustic music on Tuesdays (8 p.m.–midnight), Latin music on Wednesdays (8 p.m.–midnight), open mike stages on Thursdays (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), and dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Tues.** (except December 5)**: Acoustic Night.** Classic folk-rock by vocalist **Cass** and various drop-in guests. **Every Wed.: Latin Night.** With flamenco guitarist **John Carlson. Thurs.: Open Mike Night.** Hosted by guitarist **Steve Somers** & friends. All jazz & blues musicians invited. **Dec. 1 & 2: Cool & Company.** Oldies, doo-wop, and classic rock by this band led by TC's owner Ty Cool. **Dec. 8 & 9: Two Steps Higher.** 70s pop-rock by the husband-and-wife duo of keyboardist Tom Suthpen and guitarist Denise Suthpen. **Dec. 12: Comedy Night.** Performances by several regional professional comics, followed by a comedy open mike. 9 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 15: Little Red & the Big Blues Band.** Local quintet led by former Bonnevilles guitarist Bob Schetter that plays uptempo Chicago blues. With new member Paul "Rufus" Clayton on blues harp. **Dec. 16: Fully Loaded.** See Rick's. **Dec. 22 & 23: G. Q. & the Cosmik Rayz.** Local blues and R&B band led by guitarist Gary Quackenbush. **Dec. 29–31: The Pulsations.** Local blues band led by singer-guitarist Tony Hill.

Theo Doors

705 W. Cross Ypsilanti 485–6720

This EMU campus-area restaurant turns into a dance club after 10 p.m., featuring live music Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Cover, dancing. **Every Tues.: Open Mike.** Open mike for up to four local bands. **Every Wed.: Karaoke and Open Mike Night.** All acoustic performers invited. **Dec. 1: Domestic Problems.** Funk band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is **Monkey Chuck,** a local college-rock band. **Dec. 2: Brothers Grimm.** See Rick's. **Dec. 8: Riddle Me This.** Alternative rock 'n' roll band from South Lyon. Opening act is **Lando,** a rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 9: Knee Deep Shag.** See Blind Pig. Opening act to be announced. No music after December 9 until January. ■

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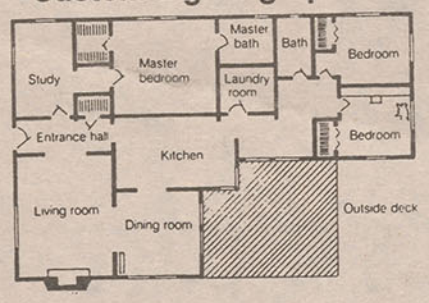

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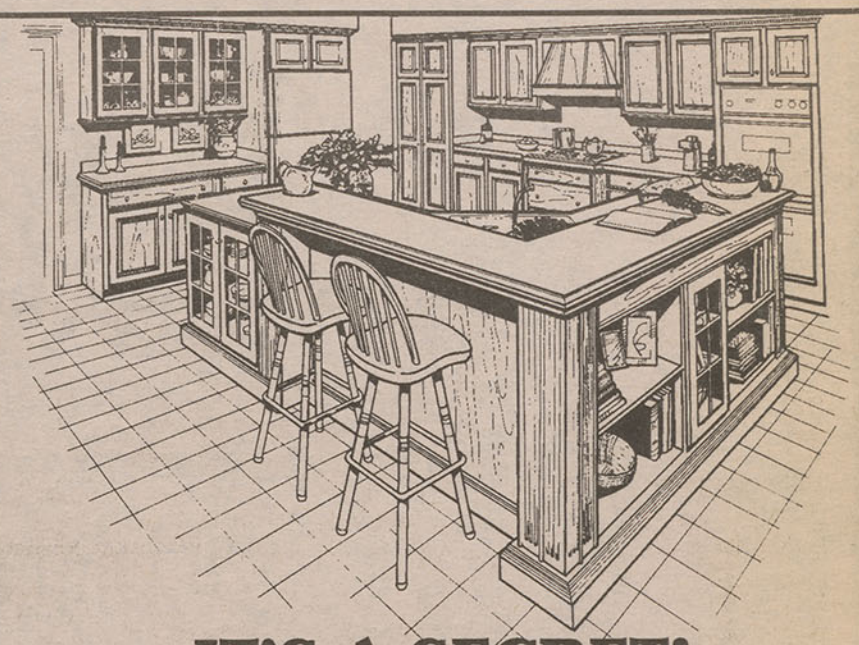

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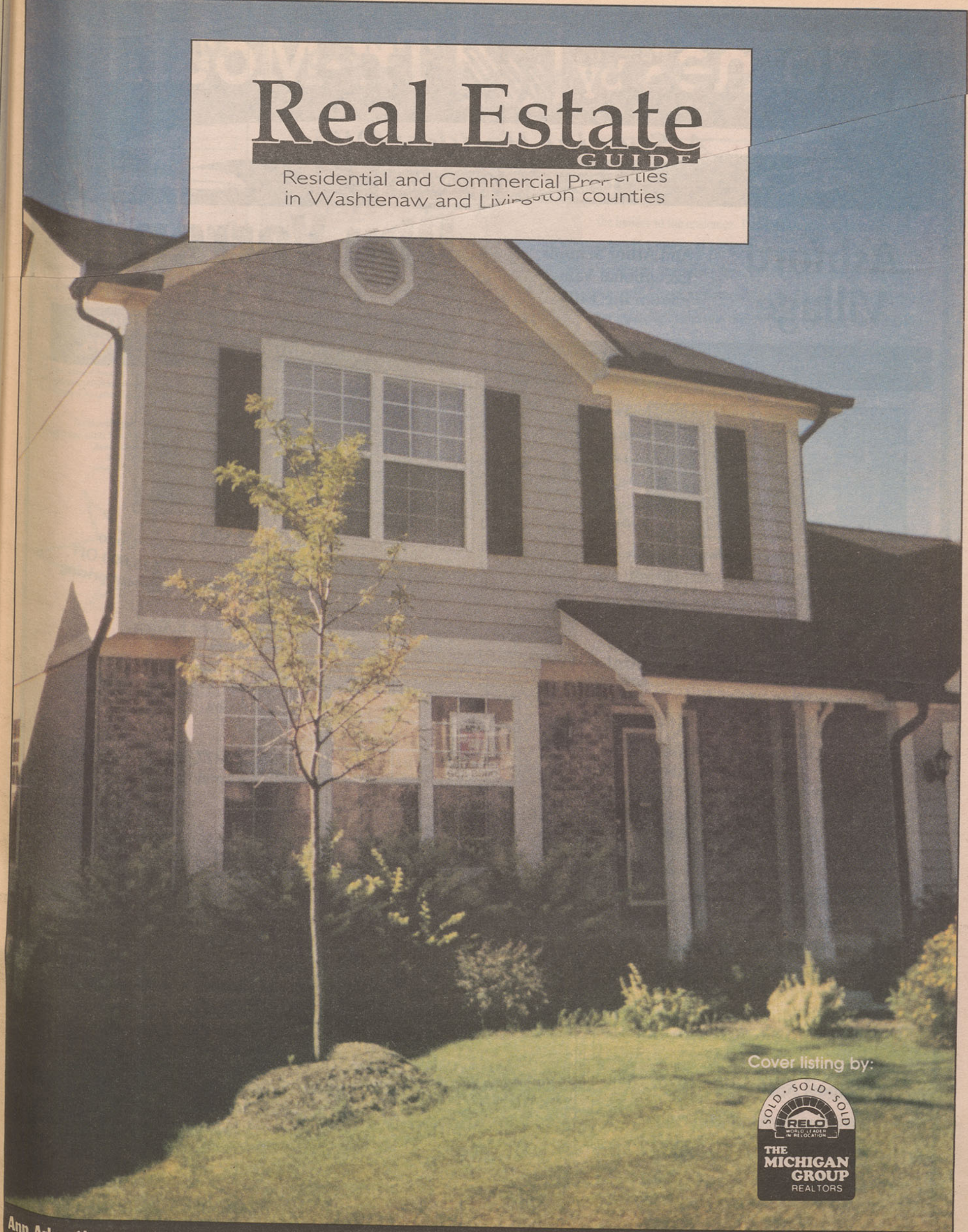

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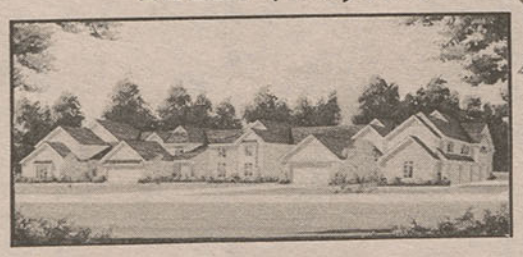

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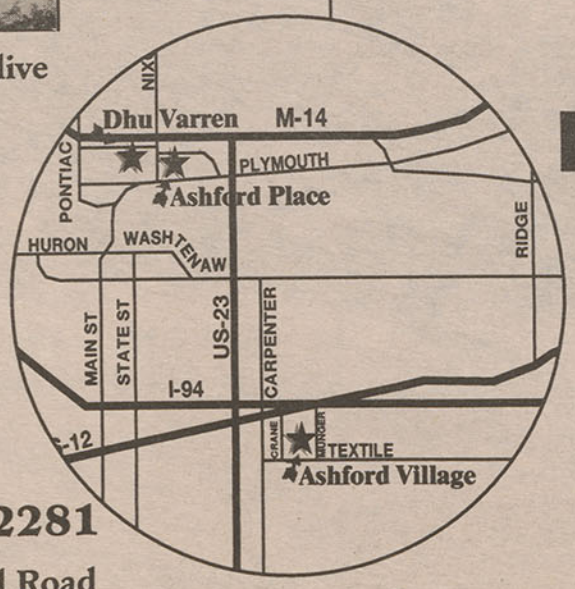

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Real Estate
GUIDE
Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

Front Cover: Free-standing condo in Ann Arbor features 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room with fireplace, and many upgrades. It's offered by the Michigan Group Realtors®.

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Arbor Ridge

An exciting approach to new construction

Arbor Ridge has several unique qualities to it that make the project worth checking into. The first is the direct accessibility of the builder to the customer. Pittsfield Development makes a point of having one of its owners on site and accessible to the customer at all times of the day. "We're involved and get dirty with the trades everyday. We are always the first one here in the morning and the last to leave at night. We feel it is the customers right to have us that involved everyday." says Mike Joss of Pittsfield Development. "We feel it puts the customers mind more at ease to know they are dealing directly with their builder rather than just a hired hand." From the very beginning they get involved with the buyer by having a 1 on 1 plan review session where you become familiar with the blueprint, the builder, and customize the plan to your liking. You would not expect this type of opportunity in homes starting under $120,000.

A second feature of Arbor Ridge is a very unique financing program. This program allows actual move in for as little as 3% down. That amounts to as little as $3,600 on a $120,000 home. Pittsfield Development and Jamestown Mortgage contribute $2,500 towards your costs. "We understand that the hardest part of buying a new home is not necessarily the monthly payment, but the initial downpayment and we want to make it as easy as possible for everyone to buy a home from us" says Danny Veri of Pittsfield Development.

Then there are the standard features that are not typical in new construction, such as the complete landscaping.

We've begun construction of the 55 homes in the first of 5 phases.

Arbor Ridge is conveniently located on Michigan Avenue between I-94 and Carpenter Road in Pittsfield Township. It features Ann Arbor schools and easy accessibility to all communities.

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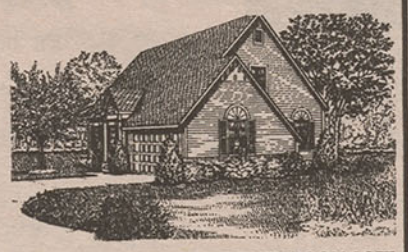
or call 313-994-7396.



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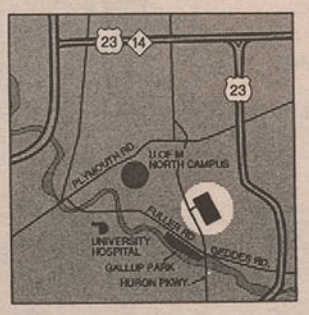
When you come home to Geddes Lake, you come home to surroundings that immediately transport you to another, less stressful, way of living. After a hard day's work, refresh yourself with a swim in the pool, play a game of tennis, walk or ride your bike through some of the best scenery in Ann Arbor — right in your own neighborhood. At Geddes Lake, you're just 1/2 mile from Gallup Park, where you can enjoy a canoe ride, run the trails, fish, or just soak up the great views.



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ON THE COVER—Free-standing condo with 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room with fireplace, basement, and attached garage. Gleaming hardwood in kitchen. Lots of upgrades and only two-years-old. In Ann Arbor. $159,900. **MARY MURTON 971–1552.** (J–03)

UNIQUE FLOOR PLAN—This Timberline-built 2-story home has 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, study, huge kitchen, and large master suite with spa tub. Oak floor in foyer. Lot backs to nature area. Yard is tastefully landscaped with deck. $199,900. **RICK JARZEMBOSKI 662–5390.** (W–64)

EXCELLENCE REDEFINED in Ann Arbor. See matchless quality throughout this stately 2-story home. Four bedrooms, 5 handsome bathrooms, and 2 half baths are ideal for entertaining, extended family or both. Enjoy spacious yet intimate ambiance. Close to the hub of exciting downtown Ann Arbor. **BETTY BASSETT 665–0804.** (R–15)

FOUR BEDROOM, 2-bath, 2-car-garage tri-level near Ypsilanti schools. One block from Washtenaw Community College. Low traffic, quiet neighborhood, central air, near shopping, and move-in condition. $117,900. **DON COMPTON 434–6789.** (S–31)

DYNAMITE HOME with contemporary flair. Three bedrooms, large gourmet kitchen, spacious great room with vaulted ceiling, 2-car garage, designer deck, built-in benches, and partially finished basement. Pristine condition. $132,900. **MARY LOU SPEERS 995–1431.** (G–33)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING ON ONE ACRE—Currently an antique mall. High visibility on M-50 in historic Tecumseh area. Only 8 miles off US-23. $148,900. **BARBARA GAINES 201–8790.** (M–45)

CHOOSE A HOME WITH HISTORY! This spacious turn-of-the-century home will show off your antiques. High ceilings, some hardwood floors, 6 bedrooms, nursery, study, and more. Plus a charming wrap-around porch and large lot. Walk to downtown. $184,900. **MIKE ROHDE 996–3130.** (S–41)

TAKE A HIKE on your scenic 5-acre retreat with stocked pond. Spacious 2,485-sq.-ft.-home features 12 x 17 master suite, 22 x 28 family room with fireplace, living room, game room, 2 full baths, and 2 more bedrooms. Township taxes, South Lyon schools. $219,900. **MIKE ROHDE 996–3130.** (S–02)

NORTH LAKE ACCESS, CHELSEA SCHOOLS. Two-bedroom home could be year-round home or summer cottage. Kitchen remodeled and fieldstone fireplace. Membership available to Inverness Country Club. Two lots. $95,000. **GREG JOHNSON 930–8686.** (A–30)

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL in your new home? This is it. Warm up by a cozy fire this winter and lounge on the dock next summer. Updated 3 bedroom, 3 bath with lake frontage. $236,000. **CAROLYN ROOPAS 663–6897.** (G–06)

COUNTRY FEELING IN THE CITY. Many tall walnut, hickory, and oak trees in big fenced yard plus gravel street make for quiet natural setting. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath home is one block from Abbot School. $123,400. **BOB HEFNER 662–1867.** (D–08)

OLD WEST SIDE GEM. Large lot near Slauson and Eberwhite. Spectacular cathedral ceilings, lofts and skylights in both bedrooms. Wood stove can be opened as a fireplace. $99,000. **BOB HEFNER 662–1867.** (S–34)

NEW CONSTRUCTION AT ITS FINEST. Spacious, well built 1,400-sq.-ft. ranch on 3 beautiful acres offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement, 2-car attached garage, and much more. Peace and serenity can now be yours in this country home. $129,900. **JAN SHERBERT 213–SOLD.** (O–23)

1995 SHOWCASE—5,500 sq. ft. in this Victorian reproduction. Two-story living and family rooms highlight this stunning home. Six bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths with finished lower lever. **MATT DEJANOVICH 747–9318.** (P–72)

STONEBRIDGE—NEW CONSTRUCTION with views on #2 fairway and #12 green. Large home with gracious foyer, study, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, and spacious kitchen. This is a superior home. **MATT DEJANOVICH 747–9318.** (S–47)

STONEBRIDGE! Stunning 2-year-old home with pond frontage and a view of #7 fairway. Breathtaking two-story great room, very large first-floor master suite with sitting area, full finished lower level perfect for entertaining. Ann Arbor Schools. **MATT DEJANOVICH 747–9318.** (S–30)

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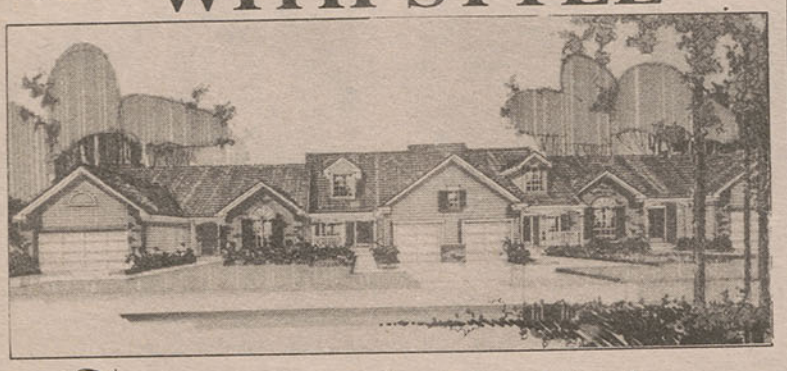

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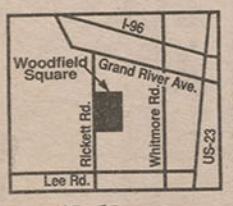

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Ford Lake Heights home on extra-large corner lot. Popular Oxford model. Family room has fireplace and opens onto deck and fenced backyard. Central air conditioning. $146,000. #R78VA. *571

Lovely West-Side Home has remodeled kitchen with bay window, 3 bedrooms (one with sunroom) plus finished attic for fourth bedroom. Deck off dining room faces private tree-filled, fenced backyard. Basement study and much more. $179,900. #R50CR. *566

Beautiful Lakefront Property. Contemporary home with large windows and vaulted ceilings in "like new" condition. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement, and ceramic foyer. $149,900. #R91WI. *558

This is the Very Best Ford Heights has to offer. Outstanding home upgraded beyond its list price. Hardwood floor in entrance foyer. Impressive fieldstone fireplace in family room. Formal dining room with crown moldings and beautiful ceramic floors. Formal living room with upgraded carpets. Fenced-in backyard with large deck and picturesque landscaping. $146,900. #R79BR. *557

A Great Opportunity to buy an outstanding Ann Arbor home on the west side. Three bedrooms plus a study. Well cared for and nicely decorated home in excellent condition. $143,000. #R12KU. *556

Newly Finished ranch on 2 acres. Master bedroom suite plus 2 bedrooms and 1 other full bathroom. Two-and-a-half-car garage. Large walk-out basement ready for finishing. $139,000. #R41VA. *570

Outstanding Country Property offering every amenity. Large formal living room opens to formal dining room. Eat-in kitchen with solid oak cabinets and two oak pantries. Built-in kitchen desk. Five bedrooms and three bathrooms. Huge family room with fireplace. Six-person hot tub and sauna. Sprinkler and security system, fenced backyard with separate dog run/indoor kennel. $224,900. #R64MU. *560

English Tudor with 3,400 sq. ft. of quality construction. Walkout 1,400-sq.-ft. basement. Gleaming hardwood floors. Luxurious master suite. Over an acre of well-landscaped grounds. $339,000. #R11CO. *559

ANTIQUE LOVERS—Opportunity to buy antique mall in historic Tecumseh. Building on M-50 on 1 acre, with business, $148,900. **BARBARA GAINES (313) 201–8790.** (M–45)

GREAT EXPECTATIONS realized in this magnificent home off Geddes near U-M. $559,000. **BETTY BASSETT 665–0804.** (R–15)

WALKOUT SITE IN CHELSEA—Two acres just minutes to downtown. View wetlands and forest. Only $46,000. **RICK JARZEMBOWSKI 662–5390.** (M–30)

UNIQUE WESTSIDE HOME in historic district. Two bedrooms have been opened up: cathedral ceilings, skylight, and lofts! Large lot with big shade trees. Only $99,000. **BOB HEFNER 662–1867.** (S–34)

NORTHEAST ANN ARBOR and Superior Township—Private, spacious parcels for your dream home. One acre to 10 acres from $42,500. **MIKE ROHDE 996–4031.** (B–63, A–24, H–20)

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SPACIOUS 2-STORY built 1987. Neutral decor, family room fireplace, formal living room, full basement. Attached 2-car garage. $119,000. **NANCY HARRISON 994–0124.** (M–28)

Purchase with small down payment, FHA, or 9.5% in Ann Arbor's northeast. Large 2-story condo $97,500. End unit, neutral decor, large bedrooms. **NANCY HARRISON 994–0124.** (B–12)

NEWPORT HILLS—Now offering 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths on gorgeous wooded 1/2-acre lot. Only $289,000. **JAN SHERBERT 213–SOLD.** (W–63)

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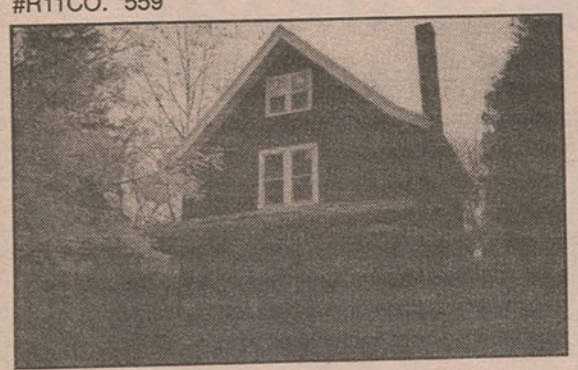

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PERSONALS

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

PERSONAL AD OF THE MONTH

All Personal ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are automatically entered in our monthly drawing. The winner will receive a gift certificate for **Cappuccino and Dessert for Two** at

Hermit billiard cue maker and two cats seeking woman with wild streak who can also play pool. Should also be able to saw wood and discuss philosophy, history, or theology at same time. I drink but not to excess. I smoke but am trying to give up at least tobacco. But be damned if I will stop cussing. Gardening, reading, games, music, golf, art, and fishing also have meaning for me. Letter and photo would be nice. ☎3235✍

Gratzi
Coffee House • Classic Cafe

To place an Ann Arbor Observer Personal ad, use the form on page 169 & bring it in or **fax** it to 769-3375.

Women Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.50/min.

DWJF, 57, PhD, happy, healthy, very active, and fit. Enjoy: my job, working out, tennis, chess, theater, classical music, collecting good art, cooking, learning, Sunday morning in bed with the *New York Times*, bagels. And you? Looking for someone to share the fun. Seek happy fella, 55–70, NS. ☎3145✍

DWF, fit, trim, 50, who enjoys the great outdoors, a good read, and a close game. ISO a kindred spirit and good sport for LTR. Letter. ☎3153✍

SWPF, 30, brunette, hazel eyes, NS, fit. Enjoys movies, sports, exercise, long walks, quiet dinners, music, dance, exploring new things. ISO SWPM with same interests, 25–35, NS preferred. ☎3300✍

Extraordinary, **SJPF.** Bright, beautiful, cultured. Sports enthusiast. Enjoys theater and the arts. ISO SPM, 33–46. ☎3209✍

Intelligent, caring, **SF,** 42, tall, attractive, and full-figured seeks a liberal to left man with a sense of humor for good conversation, friendship, and possible long-term relationship. ☎3295✍

Blue-eyed, young, brunette, **SWF,** NS/ND, ISO SWM, 20–34, honest, sense of humor, loves outdoors, music, adventure, pets, up north, etc. Letters/photo only. ☎3296✍

Beautiful, shy, thoughtful, vital, creative, mother of one, **SWPF,** 31, ISO 30's, calm, earthy, caring, educated, ingenious, SWPM who enjoys children, herbal tea, wholesome food, camping, long walks, and liberal politics for friendship, maybe more. ☎3297✍

DWPF seeks a good man to enjoy the holidays and hopefully, the rest of my life with. Me: 42, playful, 5'6", perky, mischievous, MBA, busy, good-natured, communicative, teenaged son. You: quite bright, outgoing, light-hearted, professional, honest, NS, and teddy-bearish. Letters only please. ☎3139✍

Vivacious, attractive, petite, **DWPF,** 40's, who delights in the soaring of mind and graceful movement of the body, seeks active, bright, WM soulmate and playmate for exploration of life and mutual pampering. Please write. ☎3298✍

The warm fires and pink sunsets of December are best shared. **SWPF,** 37, enjoys classical music, movies, long walks. I'm bright, caring, a good listener. ISO compassionate, literate, SWPM, 40–55, for friendship, LTR? Prefer letters. ☎3320✍

SWF, petite, blue-eyed blonde, young-looking age 35, college grad, ISO S/DWPM, NS, 34–46, college grad for friendship and possible LTR. I enjoy dancing, aerobics, biking, skiing. Letters preferred with/without photo. ☎3299✍

Charismatic Christian, very well-educated, kind, nurturing, humorous. Enjoys urban exploring, walks in the woods. Seeking a soulmate. ☎3301✍

SAPF, honest, caring, pretty, ISO WPM, 37–48, educated, honest, healthy, sense of humor. Loves kindness, classical music, dining. Letters only. ☎3302✍

SWPF, 30, 5'7", seeking SWPM for friend, marriage, and maybe family. Need to look inside before outside. You: 30–40, family considered important. ☎3303✍

Professional lady, attractive, late 50's, NS, ISO tall, SWPM, 60–65, secure, who enjoys travel, walks, sports, and has a good attitude. Please write. ☎3304✍

SWF, 33, 5'7", 130 lbs., intelligent, attractive, fit, traveled, musical, sensual, downright funny, seeking . . . (no old farts, please). ☎3305✍

Looking for your soulmate? I'm 57, an attractive and vivacious, **DWF.** Are you good-hearted and spiritual with a sense of humor? If you find yourself smiling and nodding "yes" while reading this, please write or answer my voice mail! ☎3306✍

Question: What did Marilyn Monroe have that I don't? Answer: Joe DiMaggio. Why? Because he isn't my type. Find out if you are. ☎3307✍

England, Vermont lovers: Attention! This **SWPF** adores beauty and nature and seeks a SWP gentleman to share these places and more. Educated, refined, sensitive, artistic, and trim. For friendship, maybe more. ☎3308✍

AF, 5'6", professional, slender, pretty. ISO S/DWM, 37–47, who's educated and enjoys movies, music, and theater. Nice guy. NS/ND for LTR. ☎3309✍

Attractive, **PF** with many interests seeks S/DPM, 45–55, who loves his work and life in general. Do you read, cook, travel, write, and like to talk? Please write. ☎3310✍

Big, beautiful, **SBF,** 30, loves sci-fi, creativity, music, and nature. ISO fit, attractive, witty, intelligent, honest, SM to laugh, share, and explore with. ☎3311✍

Beautiful, tall, thin, educated, passionate, sexy woman, interested in meeting a man who is highly motivated to have a healthy, honest, monogamous relationship. Must love life, and value and strive for mental health. Prefer NS, well-educated, handsome, fit, S/DWM, approx. 37–47, with hair, and over 5'9". Love of travel, tennis, desire to have children a plus. ☎3312✍

Sizeable in heart, mind, and body. **SWF,** 37, ISO SWM who loves to laugh and especially to touch. Winter has lasted too long! ☎3313✍

New to town, **SWCPF,** 31, 5'9", advanced degree, enjoys animals, movies, Far Side, volleyball. ISO SWCPM, 29–35, NS, with science background, honest, romantic, sense of humor. Letters only, please. ☎3314✍

DPF ISO lovable, adventurous, PM, 47+, for dating, possible LTR. I like theater, ethnic dining, great trees, and your warmth and enthusiasm. ☎3315✍

Sincere, intelligent, warm, nontraditional, **PF,** 37, PhD. ISO PM, 30's–40's, healthy, emotionally alive, intellectually curious, and compassionate. I like dancing, cooking, talking, tennis, films, etc. ☎3316✍

Bill, you wrote in August to #2785. You said you hoped you had rung at least one bell but gave no bell number for me to ring. Please reply again. ☎2785✍

Pretty, petite, exotic, fit, well educated, traveled, down to earth. You? Tall, fit, educated, accomplished, talkative, passionate, NS, 29–40, kind. ☎3318✍

SWP artist in late 40's, attractive, looking for male generous in spirit, warm of heart, interested in art, culture, ideas, having fun, searching for friendship, LTR. Must enjoy lively conversation, have a sense of humor, and a taste for adventure. Age 45 or above. Apply if you still feel alive inside and have a desire to act upon it. ☎3319✍

SWPF, 33, eclectic, athletic, inquisitive seeks independent, intelligent, curious man to share the adventure and the future. NS, tall preferred. ☎3321✍

Engaging, bright, attractive, fun, advanced degreed, **WPF** with integrity and passion for life seeks active, energetic, successful M, NS, counterpart, 55–65, for quality friendship and romance. ☎2785✍

Attractive, altruistic, adventurous, **DBCPF,** 44, 5'7", ISO optimistic, self-aware, BPM, 42+ young, tall, and willing to share life's treasures. ☎3265✍

Campfire gal looking for Eagle Scout to share outdoor adventures, love of nature, spirituality, friendship, romance, and possible LTR. 35–55. ☎3277✍

DWF, 38, NS/ND, mother of 2, sensitive, caring. Seeks S/DWM, NS/ND, 35+, for nurturing, friendship, possibly more. ☎3276✍

SWF, 49, sensuous, mountain woman, musician, lover of life, world traveler, hiker, seeks gentle, strong, mountain man. ☎3272✍

Adventurous, spirited, attractive, slim, youthful 50, 5'6", **SWPF,** NS, enjoys dancing, movies, theater, dining out, and much more. ISO S/DWPM who enjoys same. Please write. ☎3271✍

Quick, articulate, **DWF,** 30, tall, attractive, compassionate ISO smart, sincere, optimistic, S/DM, 28–38. Please write. ☎3270✍

Reasonably well-adjusted, **SWF,** 26, grad student, friendly, smart, and a little shy, ISO kind, funny, SM, 23–35. Letters only, please. ☎3269✍

Semi-stunning, **SWF,** nature lover ISO LTR with affectionate, witty, playful, expressive, fit, tall, SWM. Share cooking, film, humor, travel, photography, music, litter box maintenance, and more. ☎3267✍

Honest, attractive, open-minded, East Indian, **SCF,** 45, ISO compatible WM with no ties who enjoys the outdoors and travel. LTR. Send recent photo. NS/ND. ☎3163✍

WPF—I'm not on the Internet and I don't have a cellular phone. I don't dance and I rarely cook (although I want to cook more). However, I enjoy a great sense of humor, flowers, southern men, staying at home as well as traveling. Environmentalist but not a back-to-nature nut. I don't allow for cruelty, ignorance, or intolerance. I love to explore hardware stores. No recovery addicts, please. ☎3190✍

Sometimes silly, sometimes intense, left-leaning, **SJF,** 32, new in town. Ultimately I'm looking for my life partner, currently looking for someone who wants to pal around and help me explore this area. ☎3317✍

Men Seeking Women

CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE for the January issue will be December 11th.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.50/min.

DWM, 63, 5'9", 158 lbs., handsome, active, caring. Seeking a lady, 50–55, who is attractive, cultured, warm, enjoys going to movies, cooking, travel, dining out, and walking. Please write. ☎3140✍

The last of the good guys: Caring, sensitive, sentimental is waiting for you if you're 60 or over and enjoy what life has to offer. I'm a **SWM,** tall, slim, attractive, and waiting for your letter. Letters only. ☎3125✍

Romantic, attractive, and adventurous, **SWPM,** 44, NS, seeks NS, SWF, 28–40, who's health conscious, and ready for a committed relationship. ☎3152✍

Good-looking South American, blondish hair, 5'9", fit, PhD, likes cuddling, cooking, dancing, Latin beats. You? Pretty, organized, educated, NS, 25–33, romantic. ☎3325✍

A conversationalist, witty, spontaneous, romantic, diversified with sense of humor, **DWM,** 45, 5'10", is ready to commit to DWF, 30–40. ☎3243✍

Navigator/explorer/seasoned sailor, veteran of voyages tranquil and trying needs compass adjustment. Mermaid mechanic, where are you? Too many sunsets since I've heard you sing. Let's chart a course together and pick a star to share. **DWPM,** 47, consultant. If you can smile inside, please write. ☎3210✍

Hermit billiard cue maker and two cats seeking woman with wild streak who can also play pool. Should also be able to saw wood and discuss philosophy, history, or theology at same time. I drink but not to excess. I smoke but am trying to give up at least tobacco. But be damned if I will stop cussing. Gardening, reading, games, music, golf, art, and fishing also have meaning for me. Letter and photo would be nice. ☎3235✍

SWM, 28, Mystery Science Theater, 6'2", blue eyes, energetic, into Elvis, poetry, sci-fi. ISO SWF with similar interests, 22–32. Humor important. Hi-keeba. ☎3236✍

DWCM, feisty, fit, 50, who believes the best is yet to come! ISO mate who's P, NS, spontaneous, loves nature, travel, music, museums, dialogue, dining, and like me, wants a loving LTR. I respect honesty, integrity, health! Please be under 5'6", less than 45! ☎3237✍

A gentleman speaks five languages. Now he is seeking a lady to play Scrabble in English, French, or Russian. Please write. ☎3238✍

Successful, educated, good-looking, **SWM** seeks SWF for fun, interesting, and ribald good times. You need only possess a good attitude and sense of humor. Write only. ☎3261✍

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PERSONALS

Handsome, **DWM,** 46, 6'3", 220 lbs., ISO WF who enjoys camping and quiet times. ☎3244✍

DWM, 51, fit, bi-coastal baby beached in the Midwest. Enjoys reading, sailing, the Jim Tate Band, the occasional play, U2, and Monet. ☎3245✍

SWDM, 33, 6'1", 210 lbs., blue eyes, brown hair, fit. I like camping, pool, darts, dancing. I'm loving and caring and adventurous. ISO LTR. Kids OK. I have two. ☎3275✍

Kind, secure, successful professor and writer who understands the meaning of life seeks sensitive, fit, educated, spiritual, and cuddly F, NS, 38–49, under 5'7". Please write. ☎3204✍

SWM, 180 lbs., 5'9", green eyes, long brown hair worn in a ponytail, beard. Computer analyst, honest, shy, simple. Artistic nature. ISO female with positive body image, any race, for permanent relationship. ☎3239✍

Ann Arbor native, **SWM,** 30, loves the Arb even in winter, music, singing. Struggling poet ISO SWF, 25–32, for dining and debate. Letters only ☎3240✍

DPM, Garrison Keillor, BCMS, ee cummings, William Carlos Williams, "Remains of the Day," piano, XC skiing, UK, France, southwestern USA, picnics, kids. ISO SPF, 39–52. ☎3326✍

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Fill out the Personals form on page 169 and send in or fax to 769-3375.

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- Free Personal Call® voicemessage
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Responses are forwarded for $2 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes. Mail all responses in a larger envelope; include a check for $2 per response made payable to:

Ann Arbor Observer,
201 Catherine,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

42, crazy in a Zen style. Remarkable in all qualities. ISO sensuality, passion, laughs, and big fun. ☎3241✍

Adventurous, easygoing, down-to-earth, **DWPM,** 50, 6', 200 lbs., outdoorsman. ISO attractive, positive, intelligent, NS, playful, humorous, SWPF, 40–50. ☎3242✍

I'm a **SWPM,** 33. It's not easy to meet the right person but I'm continuing to try to find you. I'm a very easygoing man. I have a good sense of humor and enjoy the absurd. I like my life and my work. I have curly brown hair, blue eyes, and a nice smile. I enjoy art (impressionist especially), music (lots, love the 70's), sports (tennis, racquetball, biking), and computers (which I understand quite well). I enjoy dining out, movies, the occasional play, concert, or sporting event, and sometimes just hanging out. If I sound like someone you'd like to meet, please write and tell me about yourself. I'd love to hear from you. ☎3233✍

Sincere, professional, reliable, monogamous, sensitive, honest, good listener, likes nature, fitness, arts seeks similar woman, 37–47, for relationship. ☎3234✍

20-year-old college junior seeks professional, SWF. Write so we can meet. Totally noncommitted relationship at first. Write only. ☎3246✍

SWM, 40, 5'10", 155 lbs., handsome as hell, strong like a bull, kind, athletic, intermittent workaholic artist (it's okay), humor and tastefully restrained intelligence ISO SF, petite, fit, with her own style. To leap and burn with joyous abandon in the passion of love, or just be pals. ☎3247✍

Attractive, NS, **DW** Ross, 31, 6'3", enjoys weight lifting, outdoors, and video games, seeks fit, attractive, W Rachel for laughs, movies, daydreaming, white-water rafting, and other romantic and imaginative adventures. ☎3248✍

ISO SJPF, NS, 35–50, happy, petite, fit, to share remote trails, workouts, music, quiet times, with fit, secure, **WJPM,** 64, too young for most, too old for some. ☎3249✍

DWPM, 47, 6'1", brown hair, blue eyes, romantic, and spiritual. Enjoys the outdoors, (tennis, skiing, biking, camping), candlelight dinners, and weekend getaways. Seeks confident, well-educated woman soulmate, 30–45, to share passion, compassion, and commitment. ☎3250✍

HP seeks SF for friendship, teaching English. I'll teach you Spanish. Likes to cook, dance, and write. Letters only. Possible relationship. ☎3251✍

DWM, academic, mid–baby boomer, ISO thoughtful, willowy, NS, S/DWF to join in quest for mutual bliss. Let's meet and share dreams. ☎3252✍

Renaissance romantic, **SWPM,** 6', eclectic, energetic, accomplished, fun seeks SWF, 28–38, trim, smart, affectionate, adventurous. Goal or family oriented. ☎3253✍

Middle-aged, **WM** seeks active, attractive, intelligent, open-minded, and independent woman for long-term, "no-strings" friendship and intimate relationship. General Livonia and surrounding areas preferred. ☎3255✍

Deserve the best? Accomplished professional seeks well-rounded female, 55 plus, who also seeks the rewards of shared laughter, communication, and new adventures. ☎3256✍

SWM, U-M law student, seeks SF, 20's, for co-counsel and partner in crime. Will work on contingent fee basis. Call for appointment. ☎3257✍

SWCM, 47, with the usual sensitive qualities, 5'10", 155 lbs., runner, stargazer, entrepreneur, giver of large parties ISO kindred spirit, best friend, 30–40ish, attractive, fit, spiritually aware, for LTR, fun, and family. ☎3291✍

SM ISO SF who holds friendship in high regard. Must be spontaneous and intelligent and of course, funny. Love is waiting. Please send photo. Race unimportant. ☎3258✍

Holiday

sledding
skiing
ice skating
hot chocolate
Christmas cookies
shopping
gift wrapping
holiday decorating
snuggling by the fire
mulled cider
soft candlelight
holiday parties
tree trimming
Christmas caroling
New Year's Eve

Romance – make it happen!

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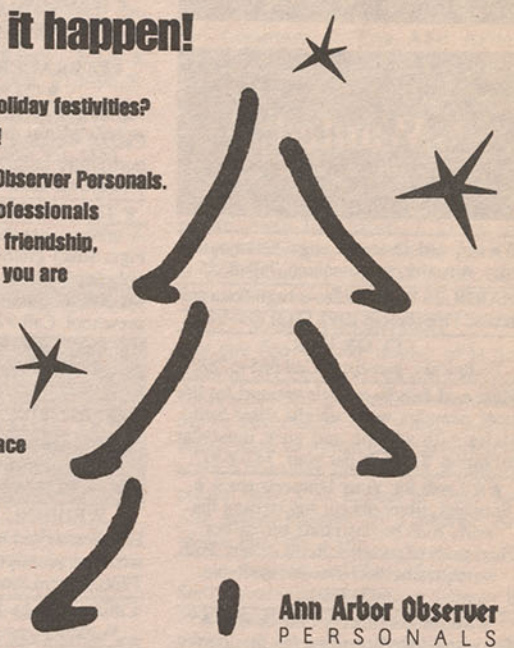
All it takes is an ad in the Ann Arbor Observer Personals. Our advertisers are young, active professionals looking to meet new people for fun, friendship, romance, and adventure. So whether you are looking for a skating partner or a life partner, the Ann Arbor Observer Personals is the place to find that special person.

See our ad on this page on how to place your free ad in the next issue and start making plans for holiday fun now!



Ann Arbor Observer
PERSONALS

Good-looking, intelligent, wealthy gentleman, 28, seeks female, 24–32. Please send a letter with your phone number. No bisexuals. ☎3259✍

Moving to Ann Arbor, **SWPM,** 38, independent, well educated, handsome, ISO serious, LTR with S/DBF. Letters preferred. ☎3262✍

SWM, 34, 5'10", NS, well balanced, athletic, spiritual, professional, genuine, caring, outdoor activities, attractive. ISO SF, 27–34, for friendship and LTR. ☎3282✍

Excellent partner material. Warm, fit, playful, witty, creative, **SWM,** 41, 5'11", NS, PhD, enjoys reading, travel, exercise, sports, arts, science, history. ISO smart, educated, open, fit, attractive, SF, 28–36, for lively sharing, supportive, thoughtful LTR, and hanging out. ☎3283✍

Sensible, sincere, and solid with a touch of friskiness, **DWM,** NS, 48, 6'4", 245 lbs., ISO upbeat, playful soulmate, 35–45, no dependents. A positive outlook on life is a must. Long-term to marriage when it's right. Awaiting your call. ☎3284✍

SWPM, 40's, great looks and morals, a loving combination of brains and brawn, ISO same in a SWF for LTR. ☎3189✍

SWM with herpes, 31, 6'1", 185 lbs., attractive. I am very caring, kind, and understanding. I seek a woman with herpes who understands me and accepts me for who I am. Notes only. ☎3285✍

This one's for my shy pal—a handsome, well traveled, literate, and articulate, **SWPM** in his early 30's. Runs his own software development company (but isn't a technogeek!), private pilot, decent cook, enjoys backpacking, and canoeing. A generous and compassionate soul, he appreciates intelligent conversation, music, movies, kids, and the great outdoors. He deserves a trim and classy SPF, 25–35, with a quick mind, a quirky sense of humor, and a profound passion for adventure. This guy's a bargain. I'd date him myself if my plumbing were different! Letters only, please. Inventive writing separates the women from the girls, after all. ☎3286✍

SWM, 38, sensitive, honest, humorous, energetic, carpenter/songwriter seeks similar woman, 38–45 or so, with grown kids for friendship and possible romance. ☎3287✍

Honest, sincere, attractive, **WM,** 31, seeks SF, 18–45, who likes children, music, and quiet nights at home. ☎3288✍

Sincere, advanced degreed, **DWM,** 45, 5'10", balances the earthy with the intellectual approach to life. Seeks similar, DWF, 30–40, no dependents. LTR, romance. ☎3167✍

Dutch treat—**SWM** ISO SWF for Oasis Hot Tub Garden soak-mate. No strings attached. ☎3327✍

Thesis-writing, music-loving, twenty-something graduate student, somewhat hyphenated, seeks interesting company. Juilliard on the 11th, Pinter on the 28th: care to join me? ☎3323✍

Wild man seeks wild woman to check out life on the wild side. Fit, warm, attractive, snuggly, **DWPM,** 37, 6'1", 195 lbs., ready for a new adventure. ☎3289✍

Handsome, **DWM,** 54, 5'9", 155 lbs., U-M graduate, design engineer, Catholic, NS/ND. Seeks S/DWF, 35–51, for friendship, possible marriage. ☎3290✍

DWM, 38, attractive, professional, kind, loves beautiful things in life, inside and out, ISO outgoing, DF, kids a plus, for LTR. Nice guys don't finish last! ☎3292✍

Gentleman, 52, 5'8 1/2", professional, tired of living alone, wants to meet a lady who loves nature, music. Intentions honorable. Letters appreciated. ☎3293✍

Physically attractive, tall, savvy, **SWM** loves sunny summers, dislikes confining winters. ISO matching, SWF, 25–38, for friendship, fun activities, warmth. ☎3294✍

Born with a gift of laughter and a sense that the world has gone mad, this fortysomething dad of one is seeking a lady of integrity/giggles. ☎3279✍

DWM, 47, enjoys sailing on Grand Traverse Bay, seeks kindred soul for cold winter nights, snuggling at the fireside, and other misspent time. ☎3264✍

SWM, P musician, 34, well educated, fit, sensual, sensitive, values honesty. ISO artistic, SF, NS, to share art ideas, music, quiet times. ☎3266✍

Roses are red, violets are blue, answer my ad, and I'll call you. Me, 5'11", 47, sailing addicted. You, NS, younger, smarter, prettier. Call me. ☎3281✍

AOL-addicted, fortysomething, **DWM,** looking for a smart, good-looking, NS, vibrant woman of integrity to help me plot escape from cyberworld. See "Stormisail" for profile. ☎3280✍

Good listener, compassionate, humorous, intelligent, decent, **DWM,** 41, looking to start a family with S/DF who is down-to-earth, confident, energetic, and willing to commit. ☎3278✍

DWM, NS, 49, brown hair, gray eyes, 5'9", 235 lbs., disabled. ISO young or young at heart, WP widow, 30–55, NS, for LTR. ☎3274✍

Calling an intellectual, SF. Witty, fun, cute, sincere, **SPM** wants to meet you. Hopefully we can spend the holidays together reading, talking, and laughing. I am 30, 5'7". ☎3273✍

Young journalist, 27, with grand plans and a modest present, seeks woman, 20–30, with an independent mind and an adventurous spirit for fun and romance. ☎3268✍

DWM, 60's, retired executive, 5'10 1/2", slim, honest, NS, just relocated. Likes tennis, golf, travel, cultural events. Others say I'm attractive. Please write or call. ☎3189✍

My friends say I'm a great guy. **DPM,** 37, from India, longtime U.S. citizen, enjoys movies, working out, Seinfeld. Vegetarian, NS/ND, seeking same in physically fit, S/DF, 27–40, for eventual marriage and kids. Prefers that you have no children. ☎3263✍

Women Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.50/min.

SWF seeks gay or bisexual WF for friendship and possible romance. Write with phone number. Write only. ☎3324✍

Men Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.50/min.

GWM, 5'8", 180 lbs., 55 years young, ISO GM, 18–30, for get-togethers. I enjoy music, walks, eating out, and more. All calls and letters answered. ☎3322✍

SWM, 60, 5'7 1/2", ISO WM, 60+, professional type men. White collar, lean. Judges, lawyers, clergymen, and others welcome. ☎3207✍

Friendships

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
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General Personals

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.50/min.

FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375.

CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted

We buy old Oriental rugs. Navajo, tapestry. Any size, any condition. 769–8555.

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Male and female models wanted for life cast: Females with weight lifter build. Males with athletic and great muscular definition. $35–$75 per hour. 747–6307.

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Stainless, silver plated, and sterling flatware. Also buying china and dishes. Thousands of patterns, items or sets. Flatware pattern identification available.
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Has immediate openings for line cooks, prep cooks, and bussers. Good pay and benefits, flexible hours, full and part time. Apply: 303 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor, between 2–5 p.m. (313) 665–0700. Join a great team!

Female to share 2-bedroom, 2-bath. Flexible move-in date. Lease expires May 31, 1996. $460 + utilities + 1/2 sec. dep. Professional preferred. 213–5870 eves.

Wanted to Rent—House or large apartment in Ann Arbor for professional female couple. Call (313) 213–0519 or E-mail kschneid@umich.edu.

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LIZ BRAUER PHOTOGRAPHY
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★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Candid wedding photography and studio portraiture tailored to your needs. Cheri Smith, (313) 475–5855.

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Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
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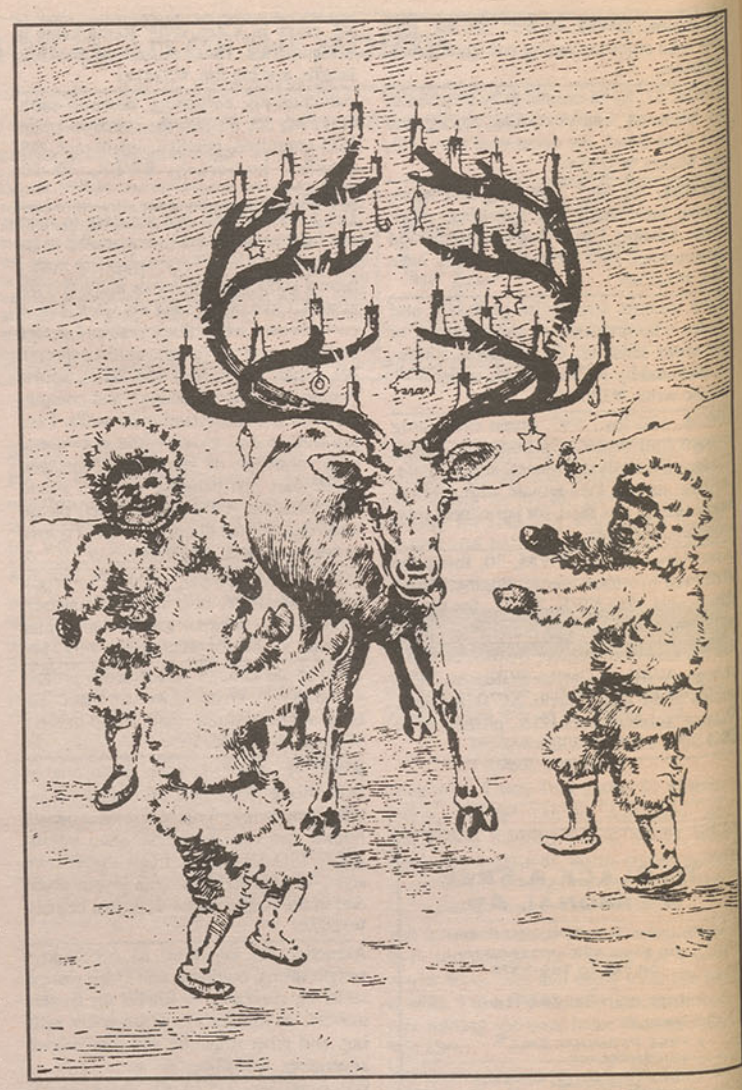

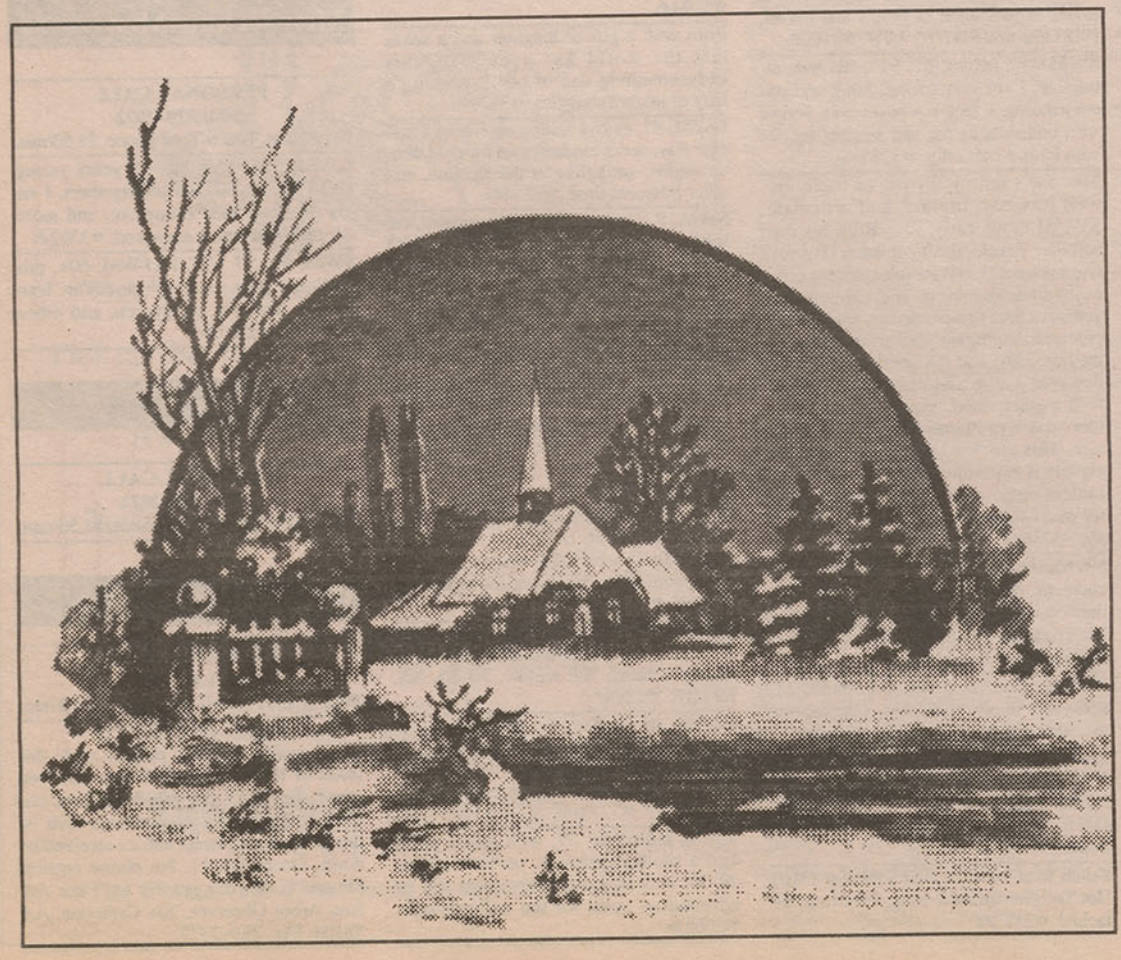

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The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 11.

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CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE
for the January issue will be
December 11th

★★ Learn Reiki ★★
Learn to bring the healing energy of Reiki to yourself and others. Classes by Reiki Masters S. Wienckowski and N. Steel.
Reiki I, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Reiki II, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Traditional training. Members Reiki Alliance. 668–8071 or 996–2530. Certificate awarded.

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"Avez-vous des difficultés à parler le français?" Native French speaker looking to start a discussion group. Call 332–7894.

AYURVEDA CLASSES—most comprehensive system of preventive, holistic health care. Quantum healing. 761–7543.

6-month **PSYCHODRAMA TRAINING** begins Jan. 13. One Sat. each month. Training useful for therapists, nurses, doctors, teachers, persons in relationships and/or anyone who wants to enjoy creative spontaneity and improve your quality of life. Persons interested in participating in **EMPATHEATRE** required to take the training. $125 per month or $650 if paid in full by Jan. 13. Training to be held at Life-Touch Chiropractic on Maple/Miller Road. For further info. please call Sara Schreiber, PhD, 662–1450. Resume and short letter of introduction would be appreciated before enrollment.

"Este mensaje es destinado a la gente que quiere practicar la idioma española." If you want to improve your Spanish, call 332–7894.

Introductory Zen Meditation Course 5 Thurs. eves. Starts Jan. 18.
Yoga Class 6 Tues. eves., begins Jan. 16.
One-Day Retreat Feb. 23–24.
Open Public Services Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Zen Buddhist Temple, Ann Arbor (313) 761–6520.

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The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 11.

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Xmas Trees from the Jaycees! Proceeds help the Jaycees provide community services and leadership training for young adults. Dec. 3–22, 9–9 daily. Main & Mosley. Pine, fir, spruce. 913–9629. *Bring this ad for $1 off your purchase.*

Ring—Matthew Hoffmann original design. White gold, diamond. $1,800. 761–5533.

'95 Geo Prizm, LSI, 13k mi. Lots of extras. $14,700. 213–5870 (eves.)

Miscellaneous

Longaberger® Products Holiday Basket selling season through December '95. Call 572–9553 for ordering, information.

The Ultimate Gift
Give a gift of adventure this holiday season: hot-air balloon flights. Gift certificates available for 1996 season at Fairwind Aero. 971–3660.

Are you new in town? Ready to get out, meet new people, and involve yourself in the community? **The Ann Arbor Jaycees are for you!** As a leadership training organization for adults ages 21–39, we offer you the chance to improve yourself and your community while making new friends and having fun. Come see what we are about at our meeting on the first Thursday of each month, room 101, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., Washtenaw Community College at 7:30 p.m., or call 913–9629. See Events for more information.

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375.

Experienced Housesitters
Seeking new position before January 8, 1996. Excellent references from local international executives. Prefer long-term. Maintenance and household management skills. Please call 995–5420 and leave message.

Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds/Personals Form

Reach over 111,000 readers

Mail or bring this form to: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or Fax (313) 769-3375.
Please include payment of check, cash, Visa or MC.

DEADLINE: JANUARY ISSUE—DECEMBER 11

RATES & GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIEDS AND PERSONALS

- Each letter, punctuation mark, and word space counts as a box. Capital letters use two boxes.
- Average 36 characters per line.
- Use only standard abbreviations.
- Move word to the next line if it does not fit completely at the end of a line.
- Ads will run in the next open issue.
- **For Classifieds Only—**
- $5.50* per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion. 2 line minimum.
- **For Personals Only—**
- **First four lines are free for singles seeking a relationship.** Businesses and organizations do not qualify.
- Each additional line is $5.50*.
- All ads are assigned a single number for Personal Call and written responses.
- An instruction sheet for Personal Call will be mailed to the advertiser.
- Written responses will be forwarded to the advertiser up to 60 days after the ad appears in print.
- Ads must be submitted in writing by the deadline. **No phone calls please.**

***Effective with the June Issue.**

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

❑ PLEASE CHARGE MY: ❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD ❑ CHECK ENCLOSED
ACCOUNT NUMBER _____
EXP. DATE _____
SIGNATURE _____

First four lines are free for singles seeking a relationship through Personals.
Businesses and organizations do not qualify.

PERSONALS—(See ad on page 166 for detailed information on placing or responding to a personal ad by mail or phone.)

CHECK APPROPRIATE PERSONALS CATEGORY
❑ Women Seeking Men ❑ Women Seeking Women ❑ Friendships
❑ Men Seeking Women ❑ Men Seeking Men ❑ General Personals

NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL LINES _____
X $5.50 PER LINE _____
TOTAL $ _____

CLASSIFIEDS—

RUN AD IN:

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	NUMBER OF LINES _____
APR.	MAY	JUNE	X $5.50 PER LINE _____
JULY	AUG.	SEP.	X # OF MONTHS _____
OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL $ _____

CHECK APPROPRIATE CLASSIFIEDS CATEGORY
❑ SERVICES ❑ ENTERTAINMENT ❑ WANTED ❑ FOR SALE
❑ LESSONS & WORKSHOPS ❑ REAL ESTATE ❑ MISCELLANEOUS

| | | |

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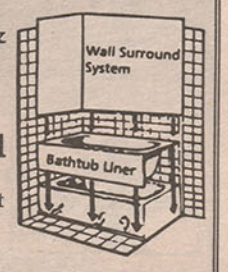

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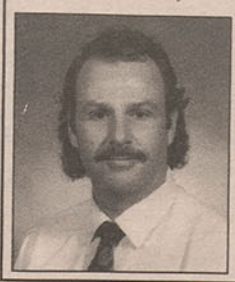

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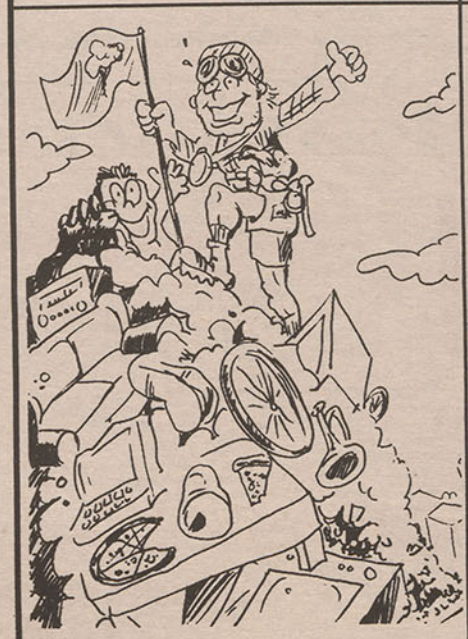

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Who knows what we'll see here next?

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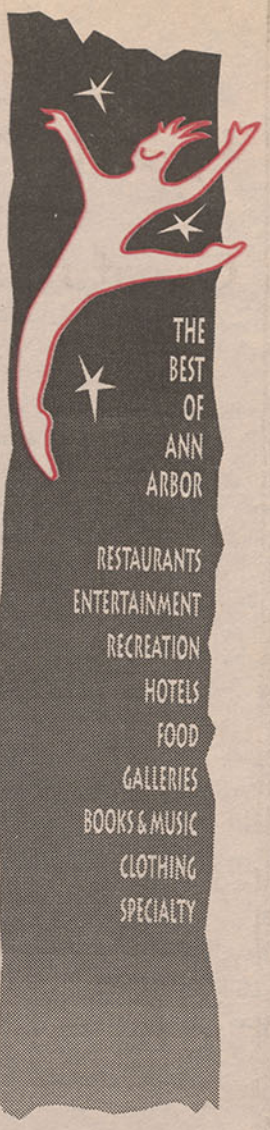

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 107 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 107.

Classical & Religious Music

- Pianist Nina Kavtaradze, Dec. 1 & 3
- U-M Contemporary Directions Ensemble Frank Zappa concert, Dec. 2
- The Bridge Ensemble piano quartet, Dec. 2
- University Choral Union "Messiah," Dec. 2 & 3
- Elise Bryant and Friends "Evening of Sacred Song," Dec. 2
- Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild, Dec. 3
- Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Dec. 3
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 9
- Violinist Gil Shaham, Dec. 9
- Community Messiah Sing, Dec. 10
- Wizards! chamber ensemble, Dec. 10
- EMU Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 10
- Flutist Philip Dikeman & pianist Anton Nel, Dec. 11
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 15
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 16
- Galliard Brass Ensemble, Dec. 17
- Ann Arbor Symphony & Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, Dec. 17
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 17
- Zion Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Concert, Dec. 24
- First Presbyterian Church "Lessons & Carols," Dec. 24

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- John Hammond (blues), Dec. 1
- Bob Margolin (blues), Dec. 4
- Cris Williamson & Tret Fure (women's music), Dec. 5 & 6
- Everything (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 6
- Liz Story (New Age), Dec. 7
- Judy Collins (chanteuse), Dec. 7
- The Nylons (a cappella), Dec. 8
- Jorma Kaukonen (blues), Dec. 8
- Lonnie Brooks (blues), Dec. 9
- All-Star Benefit for Steve Nardella, Dec. 10
- Natalie Merchant (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 10
- Alison Krauss & Union Station (bluegrass), Dec. 10
- First Unitarian Ragtime Bash with Bolcom & Morris and pianists Jim Dapogny, Bill Albright, & Bob Seeley, Dec. 10
- Big Daddy Kinsey & the Kinsey Report (blues), Dec. 16
- Sugar Blue (blues), Dec. 23
- Steve Lucky & the Rhumba Bums, Dec. 28
- Jimmie Dale Gilmore (country), Dec. 31
- "Jazz Revisited" New Year's Eve Concert with James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band, Franz Jackson, and Carol Leigh, Dec. 31

Comedy

- Bert Challis, Dec. 1 & 2
- Barry Neal, Dec. 7–9
- Margaret Smith, Dec. 14–16
- Tim Cavanagh, Dec. 21–23
- Blair Shannon, Dec. 27–31

Visions of sugarplums come alive at the Power Center when Ann Arbor Ballet Theater presents its annual performance of "The Nutcracker," Tchaikovsky's beloved fairy tale ballet, Dec. 15–17.

Theater and Opera

- "Into the Woods" (U-M MUSKET), Dec. 1–3
- "The Gifts of the Magi" (The Stage Presence, Ltd.), Dec. 1, 2, & 7–9
- "Jeffrey" (Ann Arbor Civic Theater), Dec. 1 & 2
- "Twelfth Night" (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 1–3
- "Escanaba in da Moonlight" (Purple Rose Theater), through December 23 (sold out)
- "Playing Bare" (Performance Network), Dec. 1–3
- "The Grand Duke" (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 7–10
- Empatheater improv troupe, Dec. 9
- Performance Network "Raise the Roof" fund-raiser with Bolcom & Morris, Sensible Footwear, Sister Earth, Malcolm Tulip, Jay Stielstra, Tracy Komarmy, Carmen Moyer, & Dick Siegel, Dec. 9
- "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" (Medea Theater Troupe), Dec. 14–17

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Joel Mabus (folk), Dec. 2
- Tarika (African), Dec. 12
- Josh White Jr. (folk), Dec. 16
- Tom Paxton (folkie singer-songwriter), Dec. 30

Dance & Multimedia

- U-M Dance Department BFA concert, Dec. 1 & 2
- "Amahl and the Night Visitors" (James Sewell ballet), Dec. 1
- "The Nutcracker" (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 2 & 3
- U-M Dance Department Dance & Related Arts Concert, Dec. 7–9
- "The Nutcracker" (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 15–17

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Ypsilanti Festival of Lights, daily
- Domino's Christmas Light Display, daily
- Holiday bazaars, Dec. 1–4, 9
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 1–4
- Potters Guild Holiday Sale, Dec. 2 & 3
- "Art Day in Ann Arbor," Dec. 2 & 3
- Waterloo Area Farm Museum "Victorian Christmas," Dec. 2 & 3
- Kempf House "German Family Christmas," Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, & 17
- Concordia College Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 2 & 3
- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 3 & 10
- Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild Holiday Sale, Dec. 9 & 10
- Jewish Book Fair, Dec. 10
- Rudolf Steiner Institute Christmas Festival, Dec. 20
- Ypsilanti "New Year Jubilee," Dec. 31

Conferences & Forums

- Ecology Center conference on the health effects of environmental toxins, Dec. 1 & 2
- Forum on "Transforming Public Education for a Democratic Society," Dec. 9

Lectures & Readings

- Poet Danny Rendleman, Dec. 1
- Poet Jeffrey McDaniel, Dec. 5
- Poet Bob Hicok, Dec. 8
- Educator Deborah Meier, Dec. 9
- Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, Dec. 9
- Poet John Reed, Dec. 16

Films

- Ann Arbor Silent Film Society, Dec. 3
- Goethe-Institut Festival of "German Film, 1933–1945," Dec. 3
- U-M Middle Eastern & North African Film Festival, Dec. 5
- U-M Japanese Animation Film Society "Animania," Dec. 9

Family & Kids' Stuff

- U-M Marching Band, Dec. 2
- Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 3
- "Master Holle" puppet play (Rudolf Steiner Institute), Dec. 3
- "Really Rosie" (Night Kitchen Theater Company), Dec. 5 & 6
- "Oliver!" (Young People's Theater), Dec. 7–10
- "Antigone" (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 7–10
- "Alice in Wonder" (EMU Theater of the Young), Dec. 8-10
- "Hansel & Gretel" (Wayne State University Opera Theater), Dec. 11
- "The Government Inspector" (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 14–17
- "Calvin's Completely Mixed Up Dream" (YPT Pennywhistle Players), Dec. 15
- Ann Arbor Symphony "Sing-Along with Santa and Sam," Dec. 16

Miscellaneous

- Kiwanis Christmas Sale, Dec. 1 & 2
- World AIDS Day Vigil & March, Dec. 1
- Ann Arbor Public Library Holiday Book Shop, Dec. 2
- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 16

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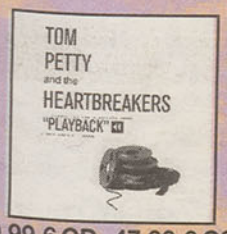

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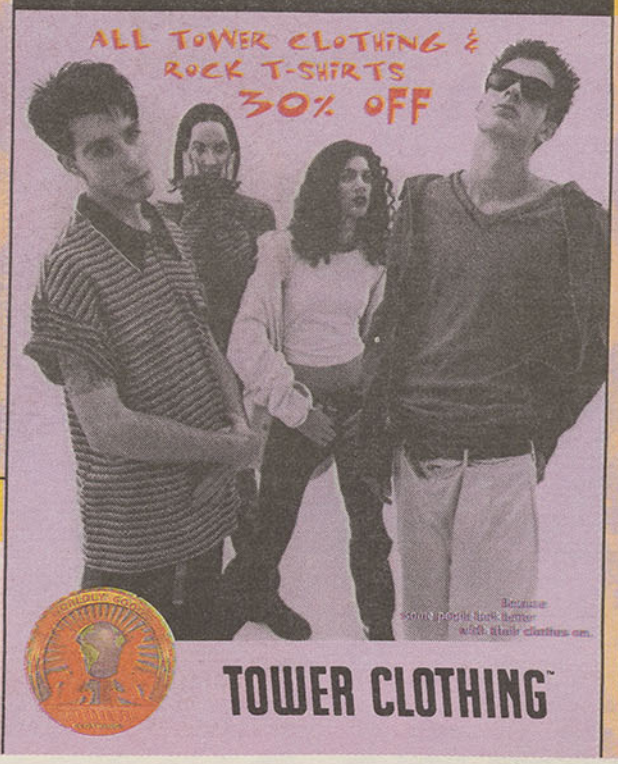

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